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Monday, 25 October 1993
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY
(Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 108

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

(b) EFFECTIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH AUTONOMY

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that at its 3rd plenary meeting, held on 24 September, the Assembly decided that this sub-item would be allocated to the Third Committee on the understanding that it would be introduced in plenary meeting and considered in the Third Committee.

The Assembly will now hear an address by the Head of State of the Principality of Liechtenstein, His Serene Highness Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, who will introduce in the course of his address sub-item (b) of agenda item 108, "Effective realization of the right of self-determination through autonomy".

His Serene Highness Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the Head of State of the Principality of Liechtenstein, His Serene Highness Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

Prince HANS-ADAM II OF LIECHTENSTEIN: I am speaking in order to introduce sub-item (b) of agenda item 108. This item is new this year, added to the Assembly's agenda at the initiative of Liechtenstein. I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Members of the United Nations for allowing us in this way to open up discussion on a matter which we believe to be of great potential value in avoiding human suffering and maintaining a more peaceful world.

In previous years we have put forward our ideas and suggestions during the course of the general debate. This was done first when I had the honour to address the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 1991, during the second general debate in which Liechtenstein participated after becoming a Member of the United Nations. The thoughts which I expressed on that occasion were amplified in the statement made the following year at the forty-seventh session by the Head of Government of Liechtenstein, Mr. Hans Brunhart. In those statements we explained the thinking underlying our suggestions. It is quite simple.

We see all around us that civil strife within States often involves great suffering and that, even though such strife might have its root causes within a State, there is always the danger that its impact will soon spread beyond its borders, thus threatening the security of a whole region or even international security more widely. None of us can sit back and accept all that with equanimity. But we also notice that civil strife is often caused by the social tensions which build up when distinctive groups within States are not allowed adequate means through which to express their distinctive identity. If we could only find the

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means whereby such self-expression could be encouraged, the occasion for civil strife, with all its attendant dangers and suffering, could be much reduced and perhaps in some cases avoided altogether. And how much better would it be to put in place some suitable arrangements before tensions explode into conflict, rather than waiting until that has already happened and then trying to pick up the pieces. The Secretary-General has reminded us all of the extreme importance of preventive diplomacy, as distinct from the more usual reactive diplomacy.

As we see it, the principle of self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other important international legal instruments, still has unexplored potential which offers the possibility that progress might be made in the directions we seek, and autonomy offers a particularly helpful practical device which could be developed within the broad scope of that principle.

All this led us to suggest that the international community should explore the possibility of communities' having a degree of autonomy. This concept is very flexible and can be used constructively to cover different aspects of self-determination and thereby tailor the degree of self-expression enjoyed by communities to whatever is appropriate in their particular circumstances. We envisage some minimal mechanisms and procedures being made available to help States and communities in their search for suitable models of autonomy which they might find appropriate to their needs.

That is the essence of our ideas and of the reasoning behind them. Since they were first put before the Assembly in 1991 we have had the opportunity to listen to the very constructive comments of a number of interested States. In particular, we have had the benefit of the views expressed at the informal meeting of experts which Liechtenstein had the great pleasure and privilege of hosting in Liechtenstein last March. Those comments and views, and our own further reflections, have enabled us to refine our thinking a little further. Now that we have come to a discussion of our ideas in the context of this agenda item, it is fitting that I should elaborate on them further. I should like to begin by drawing attention to four points which are basic to our suggestions.

First, the initial impetus of the principle of self-determination has been in the field of decolonization. While that process is not yet completed, by far the greatest part of it has been achieved, and this Assembly can look with satisfaction at the role it played. But self-determination is a principle of continuing value. Without in any way diminishing its relevance to situations of colonialism or alien domination which may still exist, our proposals look in a different direction and seek to put renewed emphasis on that principle as a valuable factor in a new context.

Secondly, self-determination is a very broad principle allowing for many forms of development, including independence. Indeed, in the context of decolonization, independence was usually the primary goal. In our perspective, however, independence is not the primary objective; it would be wrong to exclude it in principle, but we believe that the objective of finding ways of defusing dangerous tensions - an objective which I am sure is widely shared - is preferably to be achieved through the concept of autonomy. This, too, is a flexible concept, but essentially it is concerned with what may be called "internal self-determination". It allows for a degree of self-expression which can be sufficient to reflect a community's sense of identity. It also allows account to be taken of the particular and diverse circumstances which exist within many States. It allows for development over time, as the circumstances may warrant. And most important of all, it does not threaten the fragmentation of States or the creation of numerous tiny independent entities. The value of autonomy as a concept which may prove helpful will be evident to us all from recent developments, particularly in the Middle East.

Thirdly, our emphasis on autonomy as the concept which offers the most hopeful way forward also underlies our belief that our concern should be with the position of distinctive communities within States. It is the frustrations of such communities that so often lead to the kind of tensions, and then conflicts, we wish to avoid.

Fourthly, it is our belief that it is not enough just to express the right sentiments: we must add suitable provisions that will serve to make the outcome one which will prove effective in practice. By this we do not mean the construction of any elaborate and costly organizational structure, but we envisage the introduction of simple mechanisms to ensure that whatever proposals are eventually agreed upon will be likely to work effectively in practice.

Let me now look a little more closely at some of the main elements in our thinking. It will be apparent from what I have already said that our concerns are with the tensions that arise between communities. "Community" is a term which I believe we all generally understand, but which can sometimes be difficult to pin down with legal precision. The classic formula often used by the United

Nations in some other contexts refers to groups having a linguistic, religious, cultural or ethnic basis for their distinctive identities. While we do not necessarily suggest that that formula should be adopted in the present context, it does help to identify the sort of lines along which it may be helpful to think.

I would, however, wish to emphasize that our concept of a "community" is not the same as a "minority". Much valuable work has, of course, been done on the position of minorities, both within the United Nations - I refer particularly to the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, which was adopted last year - and in other bodies, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and most recently in the Council of Europe at its Summit meeting in Vienna. But although there may be some overlap between the ideas of "community" and "minority", they are essentially different. The main thrust of our concerns is with the political and cultural aspirations of communities, which possess, in a way that many minorities do not, a degree of territorial and social cohesion.

We believe that, within the broad principle of self-determination, such communities should be recognized as having legitimate aspirations to an appropriate degree of autonomy, which must be respected and secured. They should be enabled, by the exercise of their own free choice, to give appropriate expression to their own political, social, economic and cultural aspirations in accordance with the best interests of their members.

These aims must, we believe, be pursued with considerable flexibility. The circumstances of each community and of each State differ greatly. Their diversity must be taken into account. As we see it, the way forward can best be found through acknowledging varying degrees of autonomy to be enjoyed by communities. The forms of autonomy allow for very great flexibility; its many elements can be combined in a multitude of different ways. But viewed overall, it is possible to see several broad levels of autonomy, each of which progressively adds to the degree to which the community conducts its own affairs.

But, at the same time, out of respect for the territorial integrity of States, we do not consider it appropriate to suggest that these successive levels of autonomy should follow each other by some automatic or mandatory process. Rather, they should be dependent upon the request of the community concerned and the consent of the State in question, so that progress towards greater autonomy would, in effect, be through some kind of optional process.

In our view, the first, very basic, level of autonomy should, however, be acknowledged for all communities having a sufficient degree of distinctive identity. This would cover only some very modest and basic requirements, such as non-discrimination and freedom for the community to practise and enjoy its distinctive community characteristics. In certain areas of public administration community members should be guaranteed a proper role - for example, by participating in public affairs through voting in elections and standing for public office; at the local or national level, there should be organs of public administration concerned with matters affecting the community's interests; and the community should be involved in appropriate ways in the taking of governmental decisions affecting its interests.

The particular circumstances might, of course, indicate that something beyond those basic entitlements would be appropriate. This might be particularly likely with the passage of time, as a community grows in experience and demonstrates its fitness to move on to autonomy in further areas. These developments would happen on a case-by-case basis and would involve a progressive degree of decentralization.

But let me repeat: the acknowledgement of any further degree of autonomy beyond the very basic initial level would, in our view, be a matter for specific acceptance by the State concerned. Indeed, we envisage that at all levels of autonomy detailed implementing arrangements would need to be worked out between the State and the community concerned.

We do not suggest that there should be any hard and fast prescription of the elements that would comprise successive levels of autonomy. As I have said, it is of the essence that the arrangements should be flexible, and hence capable of helping in the infinitely variable circumstances that are likely to arise. But, by way of illustration, let me say that at a relatively early stage the community might be enabled, through its elected representatives, to administer funds allocated for its benefit. The community could make its own direct contribution to the preservation of order and the administration of justice within the State. There could even be provision for the community to administer schools in the community's area, for use by members of the community.

At more advanced levels of autonomy a community could have various additional rights, such as the right to

establish a local representative legislature with certain limited powers over the community. The community could also be accorded certain rights with regard to the administration of State functions within the community's area, but, of course, excluding matters of foreign affairs or defence.

Ultimately, and in our view relatively infrequently, independence might be appropriate in certain cases where it is agreed by the State concerned. It would be for the State and the community to negotiate and agree the details whereby an orderly transition to independence might be achieved. It might nevertheless be appropriate, indeed, it might be positively helpful to the parties concerned, to draw attention to certain considerations which would be relevant in this context - for example, that the community's system of government should include safeguards for the proper observance of democracy, and that the community should subscribe to international human rights commitments.

But independence is not the primary objective of our initiative; we are looking much more at the forms of what may be styled internal self-determination than at processes designed to lead to the attainment of independence. As I have said, these successive stages of autonomy - after the first - would be optional. In addition, it may prove desirable to include certain further safeguards for the position of States. I have in mind such requirements as that any progress by a community from one level of autonomy to the next should be dependent upon its having satisfactory experience of conducting its affairs at the preceding level, and that the rights to be enjoyed by a community at the various levels of autonomy would have to be exercised within the constitution and laws of the State.

Some modest and basic forms of assistance should be available, through independent procedures, to ensure the effective operation in practice of this pattern of flexible and graduated degrees of autonomy. This might involve three components.

First, there should be a body with responsibility for ensuring that the underlying policy is effectively implemented, which could also, if necessary, be responsible for regulating any financial aspects of its work.

Secondly, there would need to be some authority charged with an active and positive role in the practical operation of arrangements for the effective realization of the various levels of autonomy. This authority could offer assistance if there were any difficulties, for example, by way of good offices or mediation. Perhaps associated with that authority's functions there could be an international research and advice centre.

Thirdly, arrangements would be needed to provide for the peaceful resolution of any differences that might arise.

It is our firm conviction that something along the lines that I have outlined would advance, in a very practical way, the fundamental principle of self-determination. Developing the specific concept of autonomy would open up a further area in which the right of self-determination could be made more effective in practice, without prejudice to all that has already been achieved, and still remains to be achieved, in more traditional areas. It would also, we believe, contribute to the avoidance of future conflicts that have their root causes in the tensions between communities within States. Recent events have, tragically, shown us all that this is a matter of urgency.

In my first statement to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, I said that some scheme such as I have outlined could eventually be embodied in a convention. I realize that this is an ambitious goal, but we believe that it is a possible way in which, in due course, progress could be made.

That is not, however, our immediate object in bringing this topic on to the agenda of the General Assembly. We recognize that many aspects of our proposals are technically difficult, politically sensitive or both. We are therefore very anxious to hear the views of the membership of the Organization. We have already held in Liechtenstein the informal meeting of experts to which I have referred. It was most valuable, but, intentionally, the views of the participants were expressed only on a personal, expert basis. We hope, therefore, that many delegations will now participate in the discussions in the Third Committee.

We shall, of course, study with the greatest care whatever views are expressed here. While our underlying concerns are unlikely to diminish, our thinking about the ways in which those concerns might be met is very flexible. We hope that the debate on which we are now embarking will enable us to come forward next year with specific proposals to put before the General Assembly.

Consequently, our immediate aim is simply to open up discussion on the problems we have identified and on our ideas for helping to overcome them. We hope that the General Assembly will agree to resume consideration of this topic at the forty-ninth session, next year. We shall be

circulating a draft resolution seeking just that - and no more - in the course of the coming days.

The problems that we are trying to address are very serious, not just for those of our fellow human beings who are suffering directly from the kind of conflict with which we are concerned, but also for all of us. We believe that the international community must do everything it can - take every opportunity, explore every possibility - to help alleviate that suffering. It is as a contribution to that end that I have ventured to put before the Assembly ideas that might - and we believe will - be helpful, and we look forward to the debate that will follow.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Head of State of the Principality of Liechtenstein for the statement he has just made.

His Serene Highness Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 108.

AGENDA ITEM 8 *(continued)*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: FIFTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/48/250/Add.4)

The PRESIDENT: I now draw the attention of representative to the fifth report of the General Committee, which has been circulated as document A/48/250/Add.4.

The report concerns the request by a number of countries for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)".

The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include in its agenda this additional item?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Committee further decided to recommend to the Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Second Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Second Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members of a change in the programme of work. On Tuesday, 16 November, in the morning the Assembly will consider agenda item 26, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe". This agenda item had originally been scheduled for consideration as the first item on Monday, 22 November, in the morning.

Further, I should like to remind representatives that the Pledging Conference for Development Activities will be held on Tuesday, 2 November, and Wednesday, 3 November, in the morning. The Conference will be opened by the Secretary-General.

I should also like to inform members that the announcement of voluntary contributions to the 1994 programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will take place on Wednesday, 10 November, in the afternoon, and that the announcement of voluntary contributions to the 1994 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will take place on Friday, 3 December, in the morning.

AGENDA ITEM 22

UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.11)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it draft resolution A/48/L.11.

I call on the representative of Costa Rica to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: For many years the delegation of Costa Rica has spoken on the item "University for Peace", as most

members of the General Assembly will be aware. The impression may even have been created that Costa Rica has appropriated - so to speak - the University for Peace for itself. But that is not the case. It is just that we appreciate the University for Peace and have placed great hope in it, because peace is an ideal and a virtue deeply rooted in the soul of Costa Rica.

The University for Peace is an institution of the United Nations, and accordingly does not belong to any one country. This must be fully understood, because it creates situations and establishes commitments that require acceptance.

Moreover, we must understand that, as has been said repeatedly, the way to attain the goal of the University is and always will be education. That is easy to say, but it entails a whole series of requirements.

First, it is necessary to define what peace is. To say merely that peace is not simply the absence of war, or to say that another word for peace is development, is to speak the truth, but it is an oversimplification of the truth. Our world today is extremely complex, so much so that the end of the bipolarity that had caused so many tensions resulted not in a reduction of those tensions, but in an inexplicable increase. It is inexplicable that people on the brink of famine, instead of rejoicing when they are offered relief, become indescribably indignant towards those who bring them food, or that peoples offered the restoration of democratic life reject it obstinately. Why? It is because the souls of people are complicated and must be fully understood, in depth, before action is taken. That is the objective of the University for Peace. Its mandate is research on and study of the factors that mould the internal and external relations of peoples in all their myriad facets, which include law, economics, history, sociology, anthropology, health, statistics, psychology and even religion, not to mention the environment and climate.

With all these factors which affect society taken into account - and my list may not be complete - there can be a valid interdisciplinary analysis to understand what is going on in the world.

Obviously, what I have outlined is far from the romantic, old-fashioned idea of peace. But peace is no longer romantic; it is a reality and an extremely complex need that must be examined in the light of efficient, modern criteria.

What I have said so far is more diagnostic than prescriptive of remedies, because knowing what is going on does not automatically mean that one knows what should be done: in this case, who should be educated and how. But today education is, as it has always been, an immense need of peoples.

I shall always remember the inscription on a monument in Paris to Danton, which says: "After bread, the most important need of the individual is education". And if at the time of the French Revolution education was already so important for the individual, today it is important not only for the individual, but also for peoples. One of the tasks of the University for Peace is to discover who should be educated for peace - whether leaders, the middle class or the people - and how, and at what cost. The immense complexity of using the mass media is a problem in and of itself requiring a whole chapter.

Lastly, we must think about the fact that peace, just like the absence of peace, is today a global problem. There can be no conception of stable peace in one part of the world without peace elsewhere. It would be like trying to imagine an infection in one part of the body that has no effect on the rest of the body. I mention this because I believe that the efforts to educate for peace should be supported by all the States of the international community. That requirement, fortunately, is being met - but slowly.

In short, the concept of educating for peace is no longer just a good intention; it must, rather, be seen as a new, very modern and complex discipline that is related to many existing disciplines but that, by dint of its particular aim, is different from all of them. I believe the day is not far off when ministries of peacemaking will replace ministries of defence and when there are institutes of higher education for peace rather than the prestigious, but slowly becoming obsolete, military academies. With our University for Peace, we are making a humble, modest attempt to take a first step in this endeavour.

I shall now put abstract thoughts aside and report on the work of the University for Peace over a period of more than a year and a half, since January 1992. That very month there was a seminar on family life and education for peace. At the end of the month there was a Central American workshop on protected border areas. In February 1992 the University made a presentation before a plenary meeting of the Central American Parliament. Also in February 1992 the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Mr. Felipe Mayor, visited the University. In April 1992 the Regional Institute of Labour Relations was established. From April to December 1992 an extensive programme on promoting human rights and on education for peace was

carried out. In September 1992 the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Mr. Maurice Strong, came on a formal visit. In October 1992 the United Nations agreed to designate the University's documentation and information centre a United Nations depositary library. In December 1992 master's courses in international relations and in ecology, natural resources and peace were concluded, having benefited a group of students from 32 different countries.

In February 1993 the World Meeting of Women was held at the University for Peace. The same month the Teilhard de Chardin Cultural Association was established. In March the German theologian Dr. Hans Küng paid a visit. The same month a course was given on saving tropical forests by means of the use of non-wood products and services. Also in March the University for Peace gave talks to the Nicaraguan army. In the same month, Quakers from the United States lent their support to the University's educational mission. In April the post-graduate specialist course in labour relations and human resources was initiated. Also in April, courses were given on the management of buffer zones. In May an agreement was signed with the Central University of Venezuela and the Latin American Workers Centre to

> "make the great Latin American homeland a zone of peace, founded on democracies that are based on freedom and social justice".

In June there was an international forestry course. The same month a seminar on information management in crisis and emergency situations was organized. In July a series of talks was given at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua to deal with the challenge of rebuilding the Nicaraguan political system. In August an agreement was signed between the Costa Rican Supreme Court of Justice and the University. Also in August short courses were initiated for the training of indigenous leaders, this being the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. In September a course was initiated on the resolution of conflicts over the management of natural resources. This month a seminar/workshop is being held on economic democracy and civil society: towards a social and labour consensus in Guatemala. Finally, on 15 October the first post-graduate specialist course in labour relations and human resources was concluded.

All the attention given these activities and events has not detracted from the attention given the seven master's courses running from September 1991 to 1995. These courses cover international relations, beginning on 2 September 1991 and ending in June 1993, and natural resources, ecology and peace, beginning in October 1991 and ending in June 1993. Other such courses will subsequently be carried out in social concertation and programming, education for peace and human rights. The last four courses are at present scheduled to begin in 1994.

As these courses are completed over the next six years they will produce about 200 experts in each of the fields of study. Those professionals will be able to serve in their different fields of knowledge and join various public institutions. In particular, they will be able to provide technical knowledge for the fulfilment of the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace", for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and for peace-building. These fields of study can be expanded in the future.

I also wish to tell the Assembly briefly about two bodies related to the University for Peace: the Gandhi Centre for Communications and Radio Peace International. The Gandhi Centre was created through a programme of cooperation between the University for Peace and the Italian Government. At present it is responsible for preparing and supervising production and programming plans for means of communication used for the training, education and information needed to fulfil the objectives of the University for Peace. Its work in the last two years has been highly satisfactory.

In 1987 the University for Peace and the World Peace University in the State of Oregon, in the United States, joined forces to establish a means of communication for world peace. Thus was the radio station born, as a not-for-profit non-governmental organization, with a specific goal: to inform and educate, and create a culture for peace. It is fitting to note here that the Committee on Information recognized in a report to the General Assembly the important work done by the University for Peace and its Radio Peace International in the dissemination of information on the work of the United Nations.

Draft resolution A/48/L.11, which we are introducing and which is sponsored by the delegations listed in the document, along with other delegations that will be listed in an addendum, is almost self-explanatory, as it follows the lines of the resolution adopted two years ago, the only alterations being those required by changed circumstances.

With regard to these changes, the financial contributions of Spain, Italy, Costa Rica and the Commission of the European Communities, all of which have been extremely useful to the institution, should be acknowledged.

We also note with satisfaction that Slovenia acceded to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace on 6 June 1992. Other States Members of the United Nations are invited to do likewise and, thereby, to demonstrate their support for a world institution for peace studies. I should make the point that accession to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace does not imply any financial commitment whatsoever. Also, it should be remembered that the budget of the University for Peace has no implications for United Nations expenditure, as, by virtue of the expressed will of the States that established the University, the United Nations does not contribute to its maintenance.

Lastly, I wish to refer again, with gratitude, to the fact that in 1991, under the United Nations Development Programme, the Secretary-General established a Trust Fund for Peace, financed through voluntary contributions, to provide the University with the necessary means of extending its field of action to include the rest of the world.

I hope that this draft resolution will receive enthusiastic support and be adopted by consensus, and I wish, in anticipation, to thank members for supporting it.

Mr. FULCI (Italy): Italy has consistently supported the University for Peace since its foundation by the General Assembly 13 years ago. As has just been recalled by Ambassador Tattenbach, the University's host country is the Republic of Costa Rica, whose essential role, in proposing the initiative and in making it a reality, we sincerely applaud.

The aim of this unique University for post-graduate studies is to instil the ideal of peace in the hearts and minds of the younger generation. It promotes both research and the dissemination of knowledge, with the specific purpose of training young people to work for peace within the United Nations system. I believe that there is no better explanation of the University's mission than article 2 of its Charter:

> "The University is established with a clear determination to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations." *(resolution 35/55, annex to the Agreement)*

Mr. Soh (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

A special Trust Fund for Peace was designated for the United Nations Development Programme to enable the University for Peace in Costa Rica to flourish and to help in spreading its message throughout the world.

Italy strongly believes in the principle of the promotion of peace through education, training and research. Therefore, my Government has joined in this endeavour, right from the beginning, with a total financial commitment of $1.5 million.

The contributions of Costa Rica, the European Community, Italy and Spain have enabled the University to initiate a series of research projects in the area of international relations. The focus of such projects is education for peace: the study of methods of the peaceful settlement of conflicts, the promotion of human rights and the production of radio and television programmes. One cannot underestimate how important these three areas of concern are to United Nations activities. The first two relate to issues that are perpetually on our agenda, and the last represents an essential contribution to the life of the Organization, which depends on the support of public opinion and, therefore, relies heavily on mass communications.

The implementation of "An Agenda for Peace" proposed by the Secretary-General can benefit, in concrete terms, from the work of the University for Peace. In fact, it is our profound conviction that educating individuals in respect of the principles on which peace is based is, in the long run, the surest way of preventing conflicts and of promoting the causes of peace, freedom and democracy.

In expressing again to the Government of Costa Rica and to its Permanent Mission in New York our congratulations on the success already achieved, we are glad to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/48/L.11 and to recommend that the General Assembly adopt it by consensus.

Mr. ZUÑIGA (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: As Members of the world Organization know, the University for Peace, whose headquarters is in Costa Rica - a country which has close and friendly relations with Chile and which, in respect of this concept, sets an example to many other countries - is an international institution

devoted to the search for peace through education with humanistic objectives, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These goals, like the work carried out by the University, have the full support of the Government of Chile. The principles that led to the establishment of this institution could not have been more visionary. In the current international situation, in which, fortunately, confrontation has been replaced with cooperation and understanding between nations, the University's principles are more relevant than ever. Accordingly, Chile resolutely supports the work of the University and, for that reason, is a sponsor of the draft resolution on this subject.

Generally speaking, the University for Peace, as a primary source of thought, research and study, faces a major challenge. This challenge is a result of the great cultural changes, the interrelationships and the profound transformations in global society. The University for Peace cannot avoid this reality. Its intellectual tasks today must reflect the new types of conflict and the factors that give rise to the crises and tensions of today's world.

But, as was stated by a number of delegations during the general debate, peace is not simply the absence of war. Peace must also be a positive attitude characterized by harmony among individuals and nations, where the relationship between peace and social development has become a special concern and a dedication to achieving the well-being of peoples, thereby strengthening that peace for which we yearn so much.

Within these parameters, the University for Peace has much to contribute, since it is through the University that intellectuals and academics from different spheres of knowledge can participate in this tremendous task, to which the leaders of such very different parts of the world are devoted. The University's endeavours should be aimed at offering a fresh perspective in providing appropriate solutions in keeping with the needs of the governed and the governing in order to enable them to deal with their respective problems.

Therefore, we encourage the continuation of the conferences organized by the University, such as, for example, the one held in July in Geneva, "Peace Now - What can we do to achieve it?", at which the causes of global conflict were analysed and a series of suggestions put forward by eminent personalities on the various fields of action to promote peace.

We fully support those suggestions, in particular the one that indicates that:

> "A central relationship exists between peace and development. Violence and war thrive on hunger and poverty, just as do the violation of human rights and the absence of social justice. The University will therefore include an analysis of development, human rights and social development problems. It will examine in detail the relationship between peace and development."

This consideration and these analyses should give rise to conclusions which, *inter alia*, could contribute to the preparatory work for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The main problems to be taken up at this high-level meeting will be poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, which have a direct bearing on efforts at securing world peace.

In addition, the University for Peace has an opportunity to play a key role in the development of the new tasks required by "An Agenda for Peace". In particular, methods of analysis and action for conflict prevention must be implemented.

The programmes being carried out by the University for Peace will in the short term make it possible to integrate an important contingent of experts into the international public sector, into academic organizations and into other public and private institutions; and this, together with the activities carried out by the University in a number of fields, deserves, in our opinion, to be more widely disseminated to the general public. It is essential that all sectors be informed of the principles of this programme and of the broad range of activities being carried out, which, in the final analysis, are but the application in practice of those principles.

In this context, the University for Peace, as an agency dedicated to the education and training of men and women, has an important role to play so that, within the framework of the United Nations Charter, people can work for the benefit of their societies and for justice and peace throughout the world.

The University for Peace, in the spirit of its founding Charter, indicates that:

> "Peace is the primary and irrevocable obligation of a nation and the fundamental objective of the United Nations; it is the reason for its existence. However,

> the best tool for achieving this supreme good for humankind, namely education, has not been used." *(resolution 35/55, annex to the Agreement, Appendix to the Charter, para. 2)*

The efforts the University for Peace has undertaken since its foundation must not remain the University's alone but must also be taken up individually, by every State in the world, to ensure that the establishment of peace is paramount; hence we shall be able to devote ourselves first and foremost to the well-being and the development of our peoples.

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/48/L.11: Cuba, Romania, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.11.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.11?

Draft resolution A/48/L.11 was adopted *(resolution 48/9)*.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 22?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 23

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The head of my delegation earlier expressed to Mr. Insanally Costa Rica's great pleasure at seeing him presiding over the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. It is a pleasure for me as well to take advantage of this opportunity personally to congratulate him, as I participate in the consideration of an item which is extremely important to Costa Rica, "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world".

As members are aware, this item was the result of the evolution of the Proclamation, during the fortieth session of the General Assembly, of 1986 as the International Year of Peace, which crowned the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1985. That Proclamation was the cornerstone of a series of activities and programmes which, as we can see from the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/46/549), have been growing in number and, at the same time, generated an increased interest on the part of States Members of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and educational institutions at all levels, as well as on the part of individuals wishing to cooperate with and help the United Nations in its efforts to attain one of its primary objectives, namely, the promotion of peace in the world.

Indeed, beginning this year, a number of events, programmes and activities have been held in many parts of the world, as the result in practice of the Proclamation and of its observance. The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions in sessions subsequent to 1986 on the item which subsequently became "Achievements of the International Year of Peace".

The succinct but complete information on the subject given in the "Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly" makes it clear that:

> "the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General; expressed its satisfaction at the many activities and programmes inspired by the guidelines prepared by the Secretary-General and by his designation of organizations and cities as "Peace Messengers", which had contributed positively to promoting peace through their sustained cooperation with the United Nations; welcomed the important role played by the Peace Studies Unit of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs of the Secretariat in promoting peace, encouraging activities and exchanges of information on peace-related subjects among the non-governmental organizations, academic and scientific institutions and cities around the world, and stimulating action to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument for peace; welcomed the important and peaceful changes that had taken place in many countries of the world in order to bring about political and social changes towards more democratic systems of government; invited Member States, non-governmental organizations and academic, scientific and educational institutions at all levels, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to assist the United Nations in promoting peace in the world; and requested the

Secretary-General to invite Member States and organizations concerned to report to him on their activities and initiatives in pursuit of those ends and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session (resolution 46/14)." *(A/48/100, para. 23, p. 66)*

The report, of course, is to be submitted in fulfilment of the cited resolution.

Notwithstanding all that is indicated in this document, we have not been provided with the report requested in the resolution. The Peace Studies Unit was eliminated and the relevant information was not requested of Member States as required in resolution 46/14, which was adopted without a vote by the General Assembly. It would mean much to know why the Unit was eliminated, given that the document prepared for the present session of the General Assembly "welcomed the important role played by the Peace Studies Unit", thus recognizing the importance of its activities.

It seems relevant to add that in addition to the activities listed in the text of the document I have just quoted, a wide variety of international conferences, seminars, round tables, and encounters at different levels have examined various aspects of the promotion of peace. Some of them have continued their work each year since the proclamation of the International Year of Peace, while others are new initiatives, among which are the 1988 Ecoforo on peace and the environment, held in Bulgaria; the first world conference on "Tourism: A Vital Force for Peace" held in Vancouver, Canada, sponsored by the Tourism Canada, among others, and supported by the World Tourism Organization; the student peace festivals held each year in the city of Yokohama, Japan, and the Youth Chess Festival for Peace sponsored by the World Chess Federation; and two seminars held by the Muslim Congress, one on international peace and the world's children and the other on international peace and world literature.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) sponsored an international congress on "Peace in the Minds of Men" in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, from 26 June to 1 July 1989, in the context of the achievements of the International Year of Peace. The congress, organized in cooperation with the Houphouët-Boigny International Foundation for Peace dealt with two principal items: peace among men and peace in the relation between man and the environment.

Education for peace, especially at the levels of primary and secondary education, has been integrated into many educational programmes. In Norway, a new official syllabus drawn up in 1987 included an increase in references to peace and human rights; a training programme for teachers on these subjects was also started with extremely positive results. The National Permanent Committee of Peru on Education for Peace, established during the International Year of Peace, undertook research on subjects related to peace and sponsored teacher-training courses with emphasis on the "Culture of Peace" and "Education for Peace". Special emphasis has been placed on the role of educators as agents for peace. In Poland, an annual prize was established for a professor of peace studies and for the best book on subjects related to peace.

New institutions have been established to address specific aspects of peace through research and discussion. Among these are the Costa Rica Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and the European Institute for bringing together East and West, a Greek initiative, so as to place it under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The Norwegian Kornhaug Fredssenter was created to serve as a national centre for peace. There are plans to create a European university centre for research on peace, as well as for an international centre for peace initiatives in Bombay, India. The Australian Government provided financial assistance for a research centre for peace at the National University of Australia.

In June 1989, the University for Peace in Costa Rica organized on important event, held in my country's capital, San José. "The Conference in Search of the True Meaning of Peace" was one of the achievements of the International Year of Peace, attended by hundreds of participants of various nationalities, religious beliefs, political persuasions and professional standings. The well-known declaration entitled "The Declaration of Human Responsibilities for Peace and Sustainable Development" was adopted at that time, affirming the need for individuals and Governments to commit themselves to protecting the environment and resolving their differences and conflicts by peaceful means. Since this Declaration contains many of the postulates and principles already adopted in various forums and resolutions of the United Nations system, it was circulated in document A/44/L.16 in 1989, as part of the documentation on the achievements of the International Year of Peace.

The Declaration emphasizes that

"according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the

> equal and inalienable human rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". *(A/44/626, p. 4)*

And this fundamental principle leads to another which draws attention to the

> "challenge posed by the growing imbalances in the dynamic relationship between population, resources and the environment". *(ibid., p. 5)*

The Declaration also calls attention to the

> "urgent need for a greater awareness of the unity of life and the special character of each of the expressions of life, and for a more profound human sense of responsibility and a reorientation of human thoughts, feelings and actions". *(ibid.)*

But now we must face a reality. The Peace Studies Unit, which, as the General Assembly recognized, was a very important factor in promoting and initiating programmes and events to promote peace in the world, no longer exists. Neither can we be sure of receiving the report requested in the aforementioned resolution on this subject. It is important to emphasize the obvious fact that the programmes and activities developed by the Peace Studies Unit did a great deal to motivate young people in all countries where those programmes and activities were held - and there are many more than those I have mentioned today - as can be seen in the reports of the Secretary-General on the subject, before 1991, which give an idea of the repercussions of these events and the dissemination of information on them.

Here there is very little coordination of activities that would ensure a better orientation of what is being done in various forums, even during the same session of the General Assembly. While the Third Committee is expressing concern about the need to promote positive and healthy activities among young people which would help them to improve their approach to behaviour and the moral values of human conduct, some of the very units of the Secretariat which have developed programmes and promoted many activities of interest to young people in many countries, both developing and developed, are, at the same time, being eliminated.

In view of the new trend towards rationalization, as has been asserted, in order to achieve greater efficiency in the functions of the United Nations, my delegation has decided to present neither a draft resolution nor a draft decision on agenda item 23, "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world", so that at the General Assembly's forty-ninth session this work may be continued. We shall leave it to the political will of the different delegations, if they deem it relevant, to retain the item in future by making the corresponding proposal, under either the same title or another which might be considered more appropriate. We are certain that there will be other items that other delegations will propose in order to keep alive the promotion of peace in the world, because either the next millennium will be peaceful, or it will not be at all.

Mr. SHRESTHA (Nepal): A common theme running through the statements made in the general debate during the current session of the General Assembly has been the observation that international relations are passing through profound and revolutionary transformations. The hopes for a peaceful and stable world order raised by the end of the cold war have not yet been realized. Indeed, we are witnessing new conflicts and contradictions. Despite these difficulties, the Charter of the United Nations continues to embody the best hopes of mankind. There is no alternative but to continue trying to make this world Organization a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations for the attainment of the common ends set out in its Charter.

One of the most important developments in recent years has been the world-wide peaceful revolution leading to the resurgence of faith in democracy and human rights. As the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal stated in his address to the forty-eighth session of the Assembly, there is a direct correlation between the status of human rights, the democratic process and the evolution of a culture of peaceful settlement of disputes. My delegation, therefore, looks forward to sustained programmes and actions of the United Nations aimed at enhancing the present trend towards greater respect for democratic values.

The efforts to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument of peace must continue in all seriousness. At the same time, we would like to see more emphasis on activities for the dissemination of information on peace-related subjects. Closer coordination and cooperation with non-governmental organizations and academic institutions around the world will facilitate the attainment of this objective.

Efforts to ensure peace and stability will not be able to make much headway if the United Nations is not able to act as the forum for constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation between the developed and the developing countries. Indeed, poverty and backwardness are permanent threats to peace and stability. The need for

assisting the least developed countries in their efforts to promote human resources development and to alleviate the crushing burden of poverty are particularly urgent. One of the most welcome phenomena of the post-cold war era is the decrease in the global volume of military spending. The resources thus saved could be utilized to help the least developed countries help themselves.

There is today greater public understanding of what the United Nations stands for than at any time during the history of this Organization. The primary purpose of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security. However, it is now widely accepted that the threats to peace and stability cannot be understood merely in military terms. The non-military threats to peace have economic, social, environmental, ethnic and religious dimensions. The problems facing the world today are not amenable to solutions through the actions of one or a few powerful States. They require the partnership of all members of the international community - big or small, rich or poor. Activities to create a well-informed public opinion on the nature of problems and the potentials of the United Nations to find lasting solutions to them would greatly facilitate the work of a rejuvenated United Nations.

Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in extending to Ambassador Insanally our cordial felicitations on his election as President of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The Philippines takes pride in being a founding Member of the United Nations, and our Government, under President Fidel Ramos, would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with deep appreciation the efforts of this world body to respond to crisis situations, to put an end to conflicts and to restore peace in the world. Allow me, therefore, to express the gratitude of my countrymen for this privilege of addressing the General Assembly.

We are here to consider one of the primary objectives of the United Nations: the promotion of peace in the world. We regret that the report of the Secretary-General requested in operative paragraph 6 of resolution 46/14 is not available for consideration by the General Assembly. With the increasing interest in the United Nations and its momentum in meeting the new challenges of a new and dynamic international environment, the Philippine delegation hopes that this important report will be completed soon.

General Assembly resolution 46/14 states that:

> "peace is not merely the absence of war and ... interdependence and cooperation to foster human rights, social and economic development, disarmament, protection of the environment and ecosystems and the improvement of the quality of life for all are indispensable elements for the establishment of peaceful societies". *(resolution 46/14, fourth preambular paragraph)*

Preventive diplomacy is now becoming a vital tool for practical action for the promotion and maintenance of peace in the world. As the Secretary-General noted in his "Agenda for Peace," it includes efforts designed to prevent the occurrence of armed conflict through such measures as confidence-building, early warning, fact-finding and preventive deployment. We are pleased to note the increasing resort of the United Nations and the Secretary-General to the use of preventive diplomacy to address the many conflict situations in our post-cold-war world.

The commitment of the Philippine Government to peace starts in its own back yard. It is the concern of our Government, under President Ramos, to create an environment of peace and security, principally through social and political reforms so that development can be sustained.

Actually, the Philippines has sought to translate its firm commitment to peace and the peaceful resolution of disputes by undertaking peace initiatives at the national, regional and international levels. Under the leadership of President Ramos the advancement of peace and reconciliation has been one of the priorities of his Administration. In July of last year, President Ramos signed Proclamation 10-A establishing the National Unification Commission. That Commission has been given the task of formulating and recommending, after consultations with concerned sectors of the society, a viable general-amnesty programme and peace process that will lead to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. Towards that end the Commission has undertaken exploratory discussions with authorized representatives of the various armed rebel groups aimed at getting input for the peace process and at laying the groundwork for the holding of formal peace negotiations.

At the present time meetings between government representatives and the representatives of two groups are scheduled to be held in different countries. It is hoped that they will add further momentum to the peace process. We are grateful to the Governments of Indonesia and Viet Nam for their generous assistance in agreeing to play host to those negotiations.

In addition to its dialogue with representatives of armed rebel groups, the National Unification Commission has been conducting consultations with other sectors of the society at both the national and local levels to generate among all the citizenry, whether organized or not, an awareness of and interest in peace issues, *inter alia*, and to mobilize their active support for and participation in both the formulation and implementation of a peace process.

On the regional level the Philippines, together with its partners in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, initiated the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum to discuss regional security among countries in the Asia-Pacific region and those that have stakes in the area - the ASEAN dialogue partners and countries with significant influence and interest in this part of the world. The Philippines has also taken steps to explore areas of cooperation in the South China Sea with the interested countries in the region.

The Philippines also adheres to the principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations that the maintenance of international peace and security is a collective responsibility. Towards the fulfilment of this principle the Philippines has contributed both human and material, military and civilian resources to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). In that regard we in the Philippines - as well, I am sure, as the other States that participated in UNTAC - are deeply satisfied that UNTAC has accomplished its primary mission of ushering in a new Constitution and a freely elected Government for Cambodia, a Government based on the will of the Cambodian people. We are proud to have been a part of this successful peace endeavour of the international community.

The Philippine Government reaffirms its unequivocal support for the efforts being made to find lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia, to restore the hope of the people of Somalia and to bring back democracy under a civilian Government in Haiti.

The current dangers to global peace require sustained vigilance and emphasis on the United Nations ability to function effectively. In further reaffirmation of our commit to world peace we call upon the international community to contribute significantly to the dismantling of the remaining vestiges of the cold war. We are particularly disturbed by the attempts to downgrade the importance of the nuclear-test ban and to make nuclear inspection a painful exercise for the United Nations agencies concerned. We call upon the United Nations to find a way out of this problem.

No matter how critics view our world Organization we continue to have abiding faith in the ability of the United Nations to arrest the escalation of those problems into crisis proportions. We believe that the United Nations has a key role to play in the maintenance of global peace and the promotion of development. Let us anchor our sense of urgency on the premise that we owe world peace to our children.

Better yet, we should know that only a generation that was able to establish a lasting basis for world peace may have the right to look forward to and pray for a world of which succeeding generations can be truly proud. If we can show them the way to peace, they will not only value what we shall leave them. They too will learn where to stand when a choice is once more presented between war and peace.

We hope that through our initiatives today they do not have to make a choice, because we have already chosen peace for them, and all they have to do is to keep it always burning in their hearts and minds.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 23?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 167

BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT: DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/48/L.8/Rev.1 AND A/48/L.9/Rev.1

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Egypt to introduce the two draft resolutions under this agenda item.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: The Egyptian delegation, which requested, in its capacity as the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the inclusion on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport", takes pleasure in introducing today the two draft resolutions presented under agenda item 167.

The first draft resolution, A/48/L.8/Rev.1, relates to the request made to the General Assembly to proclaim 1994 as International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal; the second, A/48/L.9, calls upon Member States to observe the Olympic Truce. The Council of Ministers of the OAU, at its fifty-eighth session held in June 1993 in Cairo, adopted a resolution, which the African summit meeting endorsed and thus endorsed the initiatives which are now contained in these two draft resolutions. The main thrust of the two draft resolutions is to support the efforts deployed by the Olympic Movement towards building a better and peaceful world by educating and mobilizing the youth of the world through sport and culture with a view to promoting international understanding between the young in consonance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

The International Olympic Committee, founded in 1894, will be celebrating its centenary next year. That Committee is making sincere efforts to implement the Olympic ideals. The appeal launched during the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games to revive the ancient Greek tradition of the Olympic Truce was endorsed by 184 National Olympic Committees. In that respect, the International Olympic Committee has received letters of support from the Heads of States, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of 120 States.

In fact, there is a very close link between the objectives of the United Nations and the Olympic Movement, which was the first organization to voice concern over the policy of apartheid in the 1950s and which decided to suspend and isolate South Africa from membership in 1970, a decision which was not revoked until a non-racialist Olympic Committee was set up in South Africa. Furthermore, the Committee has allocated $2 million from its budget to finance development programmes for the poor Black communities of South Africa. I should also like to highlight the Committee's assistance to the city of Sarajevo, site of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games, and its cooperation with a number of States to sponsor Bosnian athletes. The Committee has also cooperated with the United Nations following the Rio Conference on the Environment.

This is the first time in the history of the United Nations that the Olympic Movement has requested support for its initiatives in the service of peace. Indeed, the drive to educate and mobilize youth in the service of peace is a noble goal that deserves our full support. I should also like to point out that the International Olympic Committee will be observing the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal with the support of national and international Olympic and sports committees. This will entail no additional financial burdens for the United Nations. For all of these reasons, I would ask the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolutions contained in documents A/48/L.8/Rev.1 and A/48/L.9 by consensus.

I should like to make an oral revision to draft resolution A/48/L.9. I will speak in English.

(spoke in English)

In the first preambular paragraph, the words "the National" should be replaced by the words "one hundred eighty-four". The subsequent words "of one hundred eighty-four countries" should be deleted. The revised paragraph will therefore read as follows:

> "*Considering* the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee for an Olympic Truce, which was endorsed by one hundred eighty-four Olympic Committees and presented to the Secretary-General,"

(spoke in Arabic)

All of the sponsors of this draft resolution have endorsed this revision.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: This year the General Assembly thanks to the initiative of Egypt, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, has an opportunity to consider a very special issue. Ever since the classical age, sport has served the lofty ideals of peace and brotherhood among peoples. Ancient Greece gave birth to an activity in which men competed not for the immediate goal of power, but to exceed their own limits by matching them with those of other competitors.

It has often been said that competition in sports results from men's aggressive instincts and is merely a means to sublimate them. That may well be true; if so, the human race has acquired a tool with which to transform the desire to fight into an urge to compete; the impulse to destroy into a will to win; and the thirst to dominate others into a search for self-discipline.

The universal social function of sports was stressed by His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain on the occasion of the last Olympic Games, held in my country, when he pointed out that the Games today:

"have become associated with the ideals of peace, cooperation and communication between peoples, and they accordingly have immense symbolic value. The political, economic, racial, religious or other differences dividing mankind become less significant. Tolerance thereby prevails and, with it, friendship".

My delegation sponsored the draft resolutions on the proclamation of 1994 as International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal and on the Olympic Truce because we support the ideals underlying them. These initiatives help foster understanding and dialogue between individuals and peoples and are directed towards ensuring that the Olympic spirit is disseminated more widely throughout the world by the United Nations.

In 1992 my country organized, at Barcelona, the Games of the twenty-fifth Olympiad of the modern era. There Spain welcomed athletes and visitors alike with open arms, aware of the historic importance of what has become a milestone in the contemporary history of the Olympic Movement. After a number of games in which not all countries members of the Olympic Movement participated, Barcelona prompted participation by them all: they made common cause in sport, setting aside differences and confrontations.

The Barcelona Games were honoured by the presence at the opening ceremony of 36 Heads of State and of the Chairman of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the recent Nobel Prize laureate Nelson Mandela, whose presence set a seal on the return of South African athletes to international sporting competition, thus helping put an end to the nightmare of apartheid.

Barcelona was also the site of a procession of athletes whose countries had been torn by tragic conflict; their participation helped fire the hope that one day the wounds - then as now, open wounds - would be healed for the benefit of peace and human dignity.

Mayor Pasqual Maragall of Barcelona transmitted to the athletes and to the entire world the appeal for peace contained in a message from the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The International Olympic Committee, under the presidency of the Spaniard Juan Antonio Samaranch, has made every effort to make sport more than an arena for competition between material interests and passions inconsistent with the spirit that should prevail in sport. Too often, professional sport has taken the path of commercialism, placing the accent more on translating sport into material terms than on the inner satisfaction gained through an athlete's performance and on the spectator's aesthetic pleasure.

The International Olympic Committee seeks also to re-establish another basic dimension: sport as an aspect of culture and as a vehicle in the service of humanitarian ideals. The first dimension is fully expressed in the declaration of 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal on the occasion of the centenary of the modern Olympic Movement. The dissemination of the Olympic ideal at the national and international levels should promote understanding and solidarity among individuals and peoples.

The second draft resolution, which revives the age-old tradition of an Olympic Truce, is aimed at instilling a spirit of brotherhood and understanding among peoples and at giving them a reason to suspend their confrontations and an opportunity to reflect on ways to end them.

I wish to conclude by expressing my delegation's hope that our words will be transformed into actions, conflicts into dialogue, and the Olympic Truce into a lasting peace. The enmity that fuels these conflicts will not disappear because we say so; we cannot conjure up understanding with a magical incantation. This is a difficult, long-term task that needs all the energy and tenacity the international community can bring to it.

Today, the General Assembly has the opportunity to serve as a special instrument for these efforts aimed at making peace and harmony the expression of a renewed determination for understanding among people.

Mr. VAN DE CRAEN (Belgium) *(interpretation from French)*: On behalf of the European Community and its member States, I have the honour to speak on agenda item 167, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport".

In 1994 the International Olympic Committee will mark its hundredth anniversary. A century ago, inspired by the Olympic Games of ancient Greece, Pierre de Coubertin made his historic appeal for the modern revival of the Olympic Games. In antiquity and in modern times, Europeans have shown, by their presence and their active participation, their lively interest both in sport and in building the goals of the Olympic Movement.

Beyond sport itself, we fully subscribe to the ideals of the Olympic Movement, as proclaimed even during the

games in ancient Greece. Those ideals were aimed at helping build a peaceful and better world by encouraging young people to practise sport free of discrimination, in a spirit of mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play. All those ideals, indeed, further the purposes of the United Nations Charter.

In this context of sport, peace, humanism and tolerance, the European Community and its member States welcome the two draft resolutions before the Assembly.

We welcome the appeal made by the International Olympic Committee and endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to declare 1994 the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal. Through sport and culture, the Olympic ideal promotes international understanding among world youth; hence, we think it is proper and timely to link it with the International Year of the Family, to be declared on 7 December 1993. We therefore call on the International Olympic Committee, international sport federations and national Olympic Committees to work together to coordinate their activities with the administrative structure already set up by the United Nations, in order to avoid duplication.

The European Community and its member States also join in the International Olympic Committee's appeal for the revival of the Olympic Truce to be observed by all parties to conflicts from the seventh day preceding the opening of each summer and winter Olympic Games to the seventh day after the closing ceremony of the Games. The *Ekecheria* was established in ancient Greece in the ninth century B.C. to enable athletes, artists and their families, as well as pilgrims, to travel in safety. A commitment by Member States, individually and collectively, to respect the truce would contribute to the peaceful settlement of international conflicts.

The adoption of the two draft resolutions before us by the broadest possible consensus would send an important message to the international community, and especially to youth - which still embodies our hopes for a better world.

Mr. DUGAN (United States of America): It is in a spirit of building a peaceful and better world through sport that my delegation is pleased to join in sponsoring the draft resolutions before the General Assembly today entitled "Observance of the Olympic Truce" and "International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal".

In 1889, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, himself but a youthful 26 years of age, set for himself an Olympic-sized goal: to build a better and peaceful world by educating the youth of the world through sport and culture. To that end, he conceived the idea of reviving the classical Olympic Games of ancient Greece, where the spirit of fair play prevailed.

At an international congress in 1894, he found support when he stated:

> "Let us export our oarsmen, our runners, our fencers into other lands. That is the true free trade of the future; and the day it is introduced ... the cause of peace will have received a new and strong ally ... so that together we may attempt to realize, upon a basis suitable to the conditions of our modern life, the splendid and beneficent task of reviving the Olympic Games."

The International Olympic Committee was founded, independent of Governments or any organizations, with the key aim of collaborating with others to place sport at the service of humanity.

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in April 1896, with 13 nations sending nearly 300 participants to 42 events involving 10 different sports. Now, over 170 nations send over 11,000 athletes to participate in more than 400 events involving more than 41 different sports.

It has been my country's honour to have hosted the Olympic Games in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Lake Placid and Squaw Valley - and, now, to welcome the world to Atlanta in 1996.

During those years, the world has witnessed glory and tragedy on the playing field, but, more significantly, on the battlefield. My delegation has joined in sponsoring today's draft resolution entitled "Observance of the Olympic Truce" to promote the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts as a visible symbol to the youth of the world.

The revival of the Olympic Games gave an impetus to sport that has gradually spread throughout the world, so that the number of encounters between countries in various sports has increased exponentially over the years. I refer not merely to world championships in sports, but, far more, to the interchange of individuals and of club and national teams, and to the sharing of their talents.

My country is therefore honoured today to join in sponsoring also the draft resolution entitled "International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal".

Mr. EXARCHOS (Greece): May I, in the first place, refer to the statement just made by the representative of Belgium in his capacity as President of the European Community; I fully support that statement.

The Greek delegation welcomes, as is only natural, the initiative undertaken, within the framework of our world Organization, to observe the Olympic Truce. In this instance, we are particularly pleased that the initiative is also being supported by the Organization of African Unity, as represented by the representative of Egypt, and that the draft resolution before us, namely, draft resolution A/48/L.9/Rev.1, has been so widely sponsored. This proves that an idea and a practice that originated long ago in ancient Greece is expanding around the world within the framework of the modern Olympic Movement.

The origins of the Olympic Truce go back to the eighth century B.C., and its originators were Iphitos and Kleosthenes, leaders of city-States in the region of ancient Olympia. It soon - and for a long time - became a generally accepted practice among the Hellenic city-states of the time.

Refraining from military operations during the Olympic Games - the Olympic Truce - may, in our troubled times too, provide an opportunity in the quest for the peaceful settlement of disputes; such settlements, as experience has so far, unfortunately, shown, are harder to seek in the heat of warfare. This, as a matter of fact, is contained in the spirit of *Ekecheria*, which, if we go back to its etymology, means holding back one's hand - that is, the temporary cessation of hostilities.

Needless to say, we hope to see the draft resolution before us adopted unanimously; for the same reason, we hope that draft resolution A/48/L.8/Rev.1, on the Olympic ideal, will also be adopted without a vote. This would indeed be an important and welcome message to the world, a message in whose expression young people will have a prominent role to play.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now proceed to take decisions on the draft resolutions before it, in documents A/48/L.8/Rev.1 and A/48/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised.

I should like to announce that the following countries have become sponsors of both draft resolutions: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

For draft resolution A/48/L.8/Rev.1 alone, the following two countries are additional sponsors: Latvia and Lithuania.

For draft resolution A/48/L.9/Rev.1 alone, Angola is an additional sponsor.

The Assembly will first turn to draft resolution A/48/L.8/Rev.1, entitled "International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.8/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/48/L.8/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 48/10).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to draft resolution A/48/L.9/Rev.1, entitled "Observance of the Olympic Truce".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/48/L.9/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 48/11).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 167?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

37th
PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 26 October 1993
at 10 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY
(Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETINGS TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.12)

The PRESIDENT: I shall make a statement by way of introduction to item 112, now before the General Assembly.

The global spread of drug abuse has emerged as a major international concern in the post-cold-war era. Governments are finding that the foundations for peace and prosperity have been undermined by this insidious threat. The international community's success in controlling drug abuse will serve as a litmus test of its ability to respond to the complex problems of the post-cold-war era. Can the international community effectively translate word into deed in the global campaign against illicit drugs? The answer to this question will provide an indication of whether we can cross the threshold into a better world where nations can cooperate harmoniously for their common good.

These plenary meetings, held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/99, coincide with a turning point in the history of international relations. On the one hand, we see the global convergence of international society with as much hope for peace as risk of conflict. On the other, we see the world-wide spread of drug abuse, evidenced by the proliferation of illicit markets and the increasing prevalence of addiction. It may appear as though these two trends are unrelated, but they may in fact be driven by the same factors. A look at one or two manifestations of this transitional period may reveal the direction in which we must proceed at the multilateral level.

Let us consider, for example, the formidable challenge facing some of the new democracies. Economic reforms required a massive injection of capital into many of the burgeoning market-led economies. This need for capital is witnessed at all levels of society. Governments are running budget deficits. Consumers are finding it increasingly difficult to afford the basic necessities. In this context, what is the illicit drug industry if not a source of abundant capital and employment? What are illicit drugs if not a highly lucrative commodity? Severe economic difficulties can at times overshadow the criminal dimensions of drug-related activity. Some newly independent countries have established safe-money havens as a way to attract urgently needed foreign capital - this, despite the detrimental impact of money-laundering on monetary stability. This type of response underlines the direct link between the needs ushered in by the post-cold-war era and the potential worsening of drug-related crimes.

Yet another noteworthy aspect of the post-cold-war era is the new role of certain developing countries in the world economy. Today, a growing number have the prospect of stable growth and integration into the world

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economy. Foreign direct investment is changing the nature of their internal markets. Governments have privatized a major proportion of inefficient State-owned industry. And flourishing stock-markets have sprouted up with unprecedented vigour.

These three changes - the increase in foreign direct investment, the wave of privatization, and the growth of developing-country stock-markets - are positive at a time of slow growth in the global economy. But they also represent a watershed opportunity for drug-trafficking syndicates and criminal organizations. Drug syndicates can manipulate the flow of foreign direct investment to "recycle" their illicit revenues in the guise of legal business. Privatization can shorten the regulatory reach of Governments, and thereby allow drug traffickers to operate in the face of fewer constraints. And less official oversight in the pharmaceutical industry can facilitate the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals into illicit channels.

Another group of developing nations still find themselves in a desperate situation with little evidence to suggest that their economic plight is over. The members of this latter group far outnumber those of the prospering developing countries. For these nations, the pre-eminent characteristic of this post-cold-war period is the extent to which their economies have been marginalized. Already we see disturbing drug-related consequences. Some of these countries have evolved into main trafficking channels through which illicit drugs are transported from producer to consumer markets. Whereas economic dynamism may be a cause for drug abuse elsewhere, for many of these countries, stagnation and hopelessness are the driving forces behind the spread of drug-related trends.

So for those and many other reasons, the threat posed by illicit drugs is greater than ever before as we turn to a new chapter in history. And it will continue to grow unless we act together at the multilateral level. Indeed, I must emphasize that it is not only with regard to the new democracies and developing countries that we must ensure the success of international drug-control efforts. Rather, given the global nature of illicit drugs, and given the rapid advances in trade, telecommunications and travel, all countries together face this spectre. And it is together that they must respond.

We must recognize the multidimensional nature of drug abuse and the underlying factors that contribute to its worldwide dimensions. And we must achieve a globally balanced approach in which illicit demand, supply and trafficking are tackled as interconnected parts of a single global phenomenon.

Once drugs enter society, the upward spiral of illicit production, consumption and trafficking will follow. In this context, the drug menace is a common threat to all nations. The concept of shared responsibility, so clearly emphasized at the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, must serve as the basic principle behind our efforts.

The foundations for progress have been established. The international drug-control conventions provide the legal basis and the common language with which Member States can respond to the emerging crisis of illicit drugs. The Global Programme of Action, which was adopted by this Assembly in 1990, outlines the necessary strategy which we must endeavour to implement. And the United Nations International Drug Control Programme ably serves as the focal point for drug control efforts at the multilateral level.

As in the days ahead we advance our deliberations on how best the international community might continue to address the drug pandemic, let us remember the commitments we have undertaken and proceed to their full implementation.

The Secretary-General has asked me to convey his apologies for not being with us this morning. He has communicated a message to the General Assembly, and I shall now call upon the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, to read out the Secretary-General's message to the Assembly.

Mr. GIACOMELLI *(interpretation from French):* I shall now read out a message from the Secretary-General.

> "Drugs are a scourge of our time, whose evil consequences extend deep and far; they cause corruption, destabilization, violence and suffering. Drugs are, sadly, a major cause of insecurity in the world.
>
> "We must therefore be under no illusion: drug abuse is now a global threat, on the same scale as damage to the environment, the pandemic of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), or poverty itself. It is therefore our duty to respond to this threat with international solidarity.
>
> "These four plenary meetings are clear proof of our resolve to tackle this question within a clear international framework. In fact, during the past seven years, the international community has

gradually become aware of the new dimension of drug-abuse-related problems.

"The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held at Vienna in 1987, stressed the collective responsibility of all States in the struggle against drugs. The following year, the international community strengthened decisively the array of legal instruments at its disposal by adopting the Vienna Convention on illicit trafficking.

"In 1990, the General Assembly, at its seventeenth special session, took another decisive step forward when it adopted the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action, and gave the United Nations a central role in the development of international cooperation in the fight against drugs. These political, legal and operational measures should now be completed by the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (SWAP).

"With the setting up in 1991 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the international community has at its disposal an effective structure and instrument to carry out its stated goals.

"Since its creation, UNDCP has undertaken an in-depth re-examination of international anti-drug strategy, covering both the experience gained to date and the results. That analysis has enabled UNDCP to identify new principles and new strategic directions and priorities, which have subsequently been submitted for consideration to the intergovernmental organs. They and, in particular, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, have given their support to the new global action programme and strategy.

"This strategy, which rests - and I stress this point - on a global approach, treats all aspects of the problem in a fair and balanced way, taking into account the cultural and social needs appropriate for each country and each region. The strategy is to be carried out at three levels: national, subregional on regional and global.

"First, the country level: when drawing up and implementing social and economic development programmes, each State should adopt a master plan to combat drugs in line with national priorities. I cannot overstress the importance of legislative and institutional measures and the need to ensure their compatibility both with the letter and with the spirit of international treaties.

"At the same time, if cooperation and coordination are to be successful internationally, each country internally should establish an effective mechanism, endowed with appropriate legal authority, to coordinate action against drugs in every aspect: education, information, health care, social reintegration, control measures, the administration of justice, and social and economic development.

"Secondly, to ensure that they have the widest possible impact, these measures should be carried out in a regional or subregional framework based on international cooperation agreements, providing for, *inter alia*, the exchange of information, and also ensuring that drug control measures and the promotion of broader common initiatives, especially in strategic sectors such as frontier zones, are effectively harmonized.

"The third and final level, that of action at the global level, should involve the rigorous and universal application of international conventions; they provide the fundamental legal framework and true common denominator within which the national legislation of each State should be integrated.

"If we are to make our international efforts truly global, then it goes without saying that all relevant groups within our societies must also be mobilized. I have in mind here non-governmental organizations, professional and business organizations, the university world, schools, the mass media, and sports movements. Together, and with the support of local regional and national authorities, we must set up more and more integrated networks to forge a true partnership, thus ensuring a clear link between all the actions undertaken. I also look towards the organizations of the system for a sustained dialogue under the auspices of the UNDCP.

"At the same time, regional and international development bodies and, in particular, the development finance institutions, should also take on an increasingly important role in the fight against drugs; indeed they should make it a permanent factor in their development policies and also coordinate their activities more closely with those of the UNDCP.

"Today the international community has an effective arsenal at its disposal - a strategy, a field of

action and an effective coordinating instrument. While of course improvements can always be made to that arsenal, we should now shift the emphasis to action.

"If we are to rise to the challenge, we must ensure that the means at our disposal are adequate to the task ahead. We must also bear in mind two key aspects: on the one hand, the speed with which the scourge spreads, with all of its consequences for society and criminality; and on the other hand, the fact that civil society is showing increasing impatience, leading to simplistic or defeatist solutions. More than ever, resolute action is needed at the level of the very planet itself. That is why it is essential that the international community should take this opportunity to restate its commitment to the fight against drugs. That is why that commitment must be translated into meaningful action by a serious effort to mobilize the necessary resources world wide."

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose, if I hear no objection, that the list of speakers in the debate be closed today at 12 noon.

It was so decided.

I therefore ask those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

In this connection I should like to remind members that the General Assembly at its 30th plenary meeting, held on 14 October 1993, decided that in view of the large number of member States already inscribed on the list of speakers, the length of statements should be limited to 10 minutes. I should like to inform members that a white flashing light will be activated at the rostrum to let the speaker know that the 10-minute limit has elapsed. Your cooperation in this regard is very kindly invited.

I am now pleased to call on His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Affairs of Sweden, Mr. Bengt Westerberg.

Mr. WESTERBERG (Sweden): There is an evident need for public and political awareness of the health hazards of drug abuse, but there is also a need for awareness of the very negative effects of narcotics on the development of our societies in economic, social and democratic terms. Drugs are not merely substances subject to abuse. They also lead to poverty, lack of faith in the future, violence, corruption and organized crime. Wherever narcotics are available we find drug abuse. And wherever there is intravenous drug abuse we also have the problem of HIV infection. In certain European countries the majority of those suffering from AIDS are drug addicts.

When the drug problem was relatively new it was natural to concentrate a high proportion of our resources on law enforcement, but we have now had sufficient experience of this problem to realize that there are several aspects to be taken into consideration. We have to attack the drug problem at all levels, employing a balanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach.

In my own country there are some relatively encouraging indications of an improvement in the drug-abuse situation. The proportion of young drug abusers is steadily declining. We believe that our restrictive drug policy has contributed to this. Measures to deal with illicit drugs have been given high priority within the social and health sector and in the law-enforcement area.

All the measures employed should give the same message to our young people: we do not accept any use of illicit drugs; we will never approve of a distinction being drawn between soft drugs and hard drugs. Cannabis is not a harmless drug; there is considerable scientific evidence of its detrimental effects on mental health and its links with violence.

I should like to emphasize strongly that the main responsibility for reducing drug abuse must rest on traditional consumer countries. It is not acceptable to blame only those countries in which production and trafficking take place. Consequently, there is a need for policies and strategies for the prevention of drug abuse that focus, in particular, on reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

At the same time, however, I should like to stress that the intensification of efforts to reduce demand must not mean any relaxation of our vigilance in regard to measures for dealing with international drug crime. It is estimated that the illicit-drug trade has an annual turnover corresponding to 10 per cent of world trade. An increase in illicit narcotics can be noted at all levels - cultivation, processing, trafficking and consumption.

Some people are giving up the battle, claiming that the narcotics problem is insurmountable. They refer to the fact that we have been unable to solve the problem within the framework of existing legislation. But the conclusions they draw are quite different from conclusions arrived at

by the Secretary-General in his evaluation of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of the reinforcement, by Member States, of their judicial and legal systems in the fight against drugs, while the defeatists consider that we should dismantle controls.

I am convinced that a strategy of liberalization, and ultimately of legalization, would make it impossible to solve the narcotics problem. It would lead to an enormous expansion of drug abuse and would cause untold drug-related damage to public health and to society at large. As a result, the international community has considerable responsibility in this matter. We must not surrender to the head-in-the-sand policy advocated by the supporters of legalization. On the contrary, we must face up to the problem and recognize - not just in words but in deeds - that innovative, multidisciplinary and long-term measures are required.

The entire United Nations system must be activated in the fight against drugs. Last year, this forum decided to create a new tool for the coordination of United Nations field activities: the United Nations Country Strategy Note. This is to be a concerted strategy for United Nations activities in each individual country, planned jointly with the recipient Government. If United Nations operations to deal with illicit drugs are to be effective, it is important that the UNDCP master plan be integrated into the United Nations Country Strategy Note. The role that we have given the UNDCP, as a result of our decision in the General Assembly in December 1990, is that of a United Nations Centre of Excellence in the drug-control sphere. But the question is whether we, as Member countries, have given the UNDCP realistic opportunities to live up to this role. For several years, voluntary contributions have amounted to approximately $80 million per year - a fraction of the total annual turnover of the international illicit-narcotics market.

But the question of resources cannot be discussed merely in volume terms - it is also a matter of bearing a fair share of the burden. Our grand statements referring to the complexity and scope of the issue, coupled with our creation, three years ago, of new institutions to combat illicit drugs, will sound somewhat hollow if expenditure continues to be low and unevenly distributed, even among so-called major donors. In many developed countries, the current economic outlook is either poor or deteriorating, but this must not be allowed to be an excuse for passiveness. The consequences of inaction would be a threat to future generations. Efforts to stem the consumption of illicit drugs must be stepped up.

As donor countries, we are responsible for contributing to a discussion of priorities. This means, in my view, that we must jointly draw up the overall guidelines, rather than focus on detailed project control. At a time when we have limited funds at our disposal, it is even more important that they should be employed in a strategic manner. The role of the UNDCP as a catalyst is of vital importance in this context, particularly in the alternative development area where the involvement of other United Nations agencies is essential. This applies also to the role played by the financial institutions.

As one of the countries which initiated the process that led to the adoption of the Global Programme of Action, we are deeply committed to fulfilling our responsibilities. I therefore consider that Member States have a duty to follow up and implement the Programme at the national and international levels. I am pleased that there is broad consensus within the Assembly on this matter.

A step in the right direction will therefore be the adoption, by this Assembly, of the draft resolution initiated by Mexico. The proposal includes several elements that could strengthen the international struggle against narcotic drugs. The deliberations at the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1994 will provide a unique opportunity for discussion between all the relevant United Nations bodies, with the object of achieving more effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action. The proposal to be made to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995 will result in appropriate adjustments of drug-control activities, where necessary.

The inclusion of this issue on the Economic and Social Council's agenda in 1994 and 1995 ensures that the necessary commitment and momentum will be maintained. But let me also stress the value of an ad hoc expert group, which is mentioned in the last paragraph of the draft resolution (A/48/L.12). A group of this kind is not a new method of working within the United Nations; it was used to implement the decisions taken at the special session, for example. This is an effective way of arranging for a competent and candid outsider to review our efforts. If the result is total support for the present policy, all the better.

For a number of years now, we have been making political statements about the devastating effects of the narcotics problem. In 1987 we convened the International Conference in Vienna; in 1990 the special session of the General Assembly and the World Summit in London. At the special session, we also agreed on substantial reforms

of the structures for dealing with illicit narcotic substances. We should now ask ourselves if this is enough. Have our decisions brought us any closer to a solution of the problem? Could we do more by adopting another approach?

There is a tendency - which we all share - to convene at high-level meetings, declaring our resolution and our commitment to fighting the global problems of illicit narcotic drugs. Then we return home and occupy ourselves with other matters of importance. But the problem of illicit narcotics must be fought back home, in our respective countries. At the end of the day, responsibility rests with each of us and all of us gathered here today. It cannot be delegated to somebody else.

Mr. BAI Jingfu (China) *(interpretation from Chinese)*: In February 1992, at its seventeenth special session, the General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action, which defined the aim and direction of international narcotics-control activities. In the course of past years a number of drug-control measures have been taken, and positive results have been achieved by individual countries and international society to reduce the threat of illicit drugs. We should bear in mind, however, that the global trend of drug production, abuse and illicit trafficking is still moving in the wrong direction.

In the consideration and discussion of the international drug problem and in the designing of more effective strategies and policies, full attention should be paid to two factors which are both objective and decisive in the current illicit drug situation. One is the extensive illicit sources of drugs, and the other is the international illicit-drug-consuming markets. It is these two factors that seriously increase the problem of illicit-drug trafficking and make narcotics control an arduous and time-consuming task for the international community as a whole.

Therefore, in the implementation of the international drug-control strategy, the questions of how to reduce illicit production, reduce the demand for narcotics and combat illicit drug trafficking effectively should be considered and dealt with as being of equal importance, with a view to the adoption of comprehensive measures. At the same time, the level of a country's social and economic development must be taken into account when it is preparing to launch its drug-control campaign.

Though we are facing a serious drug situation, circumstances conducive to the elimination of the illicit-drug problem are also emerging. I should like to take this opportunity to mention a few points regarding international drug-control cooperation.

First, such cooperation must be kept in accordance with the objective reality of the general pattern of the global drug problem with a view to formulating policies of international narcotics-control cooperation and to planning UNDCP activities. Full consideration should be given to the different areas. The subregional drug-control strategy pursued by the UNDCP in the Golden Triangle area is developing in an appropriate way, and it is practical to lay emphasis on the subregional project designed both to reduce illicit opium-poppy cultivation by promoting comprehensive rural development and to eliminate illicit-drug trafficking by strengthening drug-law enforcement. Coordination cooperation activities between neighbouring countries through the UNDCP is also a good method. These policies and activities should be reaffirmed and improved further.

Secondly, more positive measures should be taken to encourage those countries which have not yet acceded to and ratified the 1988 Convention to do so as soon as possible. The States parties to the 1988 Convention should be urged both to undertake the obligations set out therein and to implement the Convention in all seriousness.

Thirdly, the Global Programme of Action is a principal document based on national experiences in narcotics control and adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session. All States should be encouraged to take effective action to implement it in their own circumstances. While efforts should be taken at the national level, implementation also needs to be accelerated at the international level.

Fourthly, international cooperation on narcotics control should be applied on the basis of mutual benefit and respect for each other's sovereignty.

The illicit-drug problem represents a great threat to the health of people everywhere and to the stability of a society. Because of its geographical position and the policy of opening up, China is inevitably influenced by and suffering from the increasing invasion of activities relating to the transit of illicit drugs. Constant efforts have been made by the Chinese Government in past years to strengthen its national narcotics-control measures.

In formulating and planning its domestic drug-control policies, the Chinese Government took the Global Programme of Action fully into consideration. The implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the

Chinese Government is reflected in the report of the Secretary-General. However, I should like to speak briefly about the important measures taken by the Chinese Government last year and the main successes achieved.

Strict measures have been taken to suppress drug-trafficking crimes relating to the transit of drugs. In 1992 the Chinese drug-law-enforcement agencies cracked 14,701 drug cases, with the seizure of 4,489 kilograms of heroin, 2,660 kilograms of opium and 910 kilograms of cannabis. The quantity of heroin seized during the year was 1.4 times as much as that seized in the previous year. During the first six months of 1993, a total of 7,817 drug cases were handled by the Chinese drug-law-enforcement agencies, with the seizure of 1,945 kilograms of opium, 1,898 kilograms of heroin and 100 kilograms of cannabis. Those figures and facts clearly show the trend of increasing illicit-drug-trafficking activities through China and, on the other hand, the determination and effectiveness of the Chinese Government's drug-law-enforcement efforts.

Publicity and education activities on narcotics control have been further promoted. To raise social awareness, government at all levels is mobilized to carry out extensive publicity activities on the danger of illicit drugs and on the national drug laws and regulations through the various mass media, such as broadcasting, television programmes and newspapers. Young people, especially middle-school students, are targeted for the main educational programme. Reading materials on narcotics control are published by the National Narcotics Control Commission and distributed nationwide. Various mass campaigns were carried out in the provinces where illicit-drug problems exist, in accordance with the programmes of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the observance of 26 June as International Day against Drug Abuse.

Efforts for drug detoxification and rehabilitation have been promoted further. According to nation-wide statistics, the total number of drug addicts is 250,000 at present; 252 compulsory drug-detoxification centres have been set up by local governments, and 46,000 drug addicts have gone through compulsory drug-detoxification programmes. A community monitoring system has been formed, in an effort to keep the relapse rate at a lower level. The Chinese Government has given high priority to consideration of the prevention and treatment of AIDS deaths related to drug addiction.

Great steps have been taken in controlling the chemicals that can be used for illicit drug production. Though it is rather difficult to control some of these chemicals effectively because of their extensive use in industry, the Chinese Government still respects the decision made by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and has enforced an export-licence system, effective since 1 April 1993, to control the 22 chemicals listed in the 1988 Convention. A special regulation has also been enacted and applied to control effectively the production, distribution and transportation of ephedrine, including such measures as distribution strictly according to the national plan, licensed purchasing and the rule of one licence for one shipment. Strict measures have been imposed along the border areas in Yunnan province to prevent any illicit exportation of chemicals that could be used for drug manufacture.

The Chinese Government has always been in favour of strengthening international cooperation on narcotics control. In order to fight the scourge brought on the international community and China by external drug sources and drug transit, China has supported and taken an active part in the subregional drug-control strategy and cooperation programmes initiated by the UNDCP. The Subregional Drug Control Project signed between China, Myanmar and the UNDCP now in course of implementation. The Chinese drug-law-enforcement agencies are playing an active role and taking a positive attitude in joint drug investigation and information exchange with neighbouring countries and other regions. Good relations have been maintained in this regard.

The Chinese Government highly commends the holding, at this forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, of these special plenary meetings on drug abuse and trafficking with the aim of further enhancing international drug-control cooperation. It is our sincere hope that through the special meetings, more Member States will accede to and ratify the 1988 Convention and that multilateral cooperation on narcotics control will subsequently be strengthened.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Melchior Wathelet, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice and Economic Affairs of Belgium.

Mr. WATHELET (Belgium) *(interpretation from French):* It is a great honour for me to speak in this prestigious Hall on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

In welcoming the interesting guidelines on our work contained in the Secretary-General's proposals, I should like first of all to emphasize that the assessment of the state of international cooperation in the fight against drug abuse is even more necessary and urgent than it was at the

time of our last meeting, as all the data available to us indicate that the scourge of drugs has continued to grow, thus spawning a serious and continuous threat not only to the health of individuals but also to the very fabric of our societies. It very often jeopardizes the political and economic stability of countries, as well as their security and their democratic structure as a whole.

Given the diversification of that threat, which is now severely affecting a growing number of countries, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe but in every other region of the world as well, only an intensification of international cooperation on a global level will enable us to cope with this danger and present a sufficiently broad and effective front against it. That is our responsibility as political leaders, and we must shoulder it fully and in a spirit of complete solidarity.

In this connection it is the view of the European Community and its member States that the special meetings of the General Assembly we are devoting to this subject will enable us to evaluate the effects of the instruments, programmes and institutional structures we have acquired over time and to reaffirm our will to engage in joint cooperation.

The elimination of the traffic in illicit drugs entails high political, human, economic and social costs. It demands regional and international solidarity and a genuinely effective and concerted campaign of mobilization.

More specifically, a first answer designed to bolster the means of combating illicit drugs in all their forms is the adherence of all Member States of the Organization to international treaties on the subject, in particular the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and, especially, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The latter Convention was signed by the European Community and its member States. The Community and a large majority of its member States have already ratified it, thereby reaffirming the relevance of its innovative provisions in such areas as confiscation of property and control of deliveries and trade in precursor and other essential chemical products.

We would also recall the great importance of rapid implementation of the legislative and administrative measures necessary to make national judicial systems compatible with the spirit and scope of international treaties. As for countries not yet parties to those Conventions, they should be encouraged to move to the interim application of their provisions.

The financial aspect of the illicit trade in narcotic substances and the involvement of banks and financiers in the laundering of often colossal sums of money derived from drug traffickers has become a major concern for States, which must take all the measures necessary to ensure that activities of this type cannot be conducted from their national territory.

In the view of the European Community and its member States, the establishment this year of a single market without interior borders must not lead to such reprehensible activities as illicit drug trafficking and the money laundering that accompanies it. This is why a joint strategy and a constant flow of information between the services specializing in security and customs matters have been initiated to guarantee uniform and homogeneous control of the Community's external borders.

The entry into force since on 1 January of this year of the European directive on money laundering has provided the Governments of the countries involved with a valuable tool in the struggle they are jointly waging to overcome the drug scourge. Similarly, emphasis must also be placed on the need for eligible States to ratify the Council of Europe Convention of 1990 on money laundering and the detection, seizure and confiscation of the byproducts of crime.

The opportunity of acquiring enormous illegal profits is an especially tempting lure for the criminal underworld, whose activities adjust to the passions and ills of our society. Thus, the European Community and its member States consider that the optimum means should be found to establish close links between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Crime Prevention Programme in order to coordinate and amplify efforts in this area.

Real progress has also been made since 1990 within the framework of international cooperation in preventing the diversion for illicit purposes of precursor and other essential chemical products. Where the European Community is concerned, this cooperation has led to the adoption of a body of regulations detailing steps to be taken to prevent the diversion of certain substances to the illicit production of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances and of a directive on the production and commercialization of precursors in the European zone.

That progress has enabled us to support the resolution adopted last spring by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was designed to follow up the recommendations of the Action Group on Chemical Products of the Group of industrialized countries and to assign a clear-cut role to the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Our efforts to cooperate within the Trevi Group, comprising the Ministers of Justice and Interior of the Community's 12 member States, and within the framework of the Mutual Assistance Group of Customs Authorities have also been stepped up. As an example I would mention here the June 1991 decision to create a European Police Office, known as Europol. I hope that by 1 January 1994 the agreement signed in June of this year by the appropriate Ministers providing for the establishment of a Joint Information Unit on Drugs, to be known as the Europol Drug Unit, will have been effectively implemented.

As emphasized in the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in 1990, the fight against the scourge of drugs requires joint international action. The European Community and its member States, for their part, have concluded with third countries and with regions many agreements containing clauses calling for cooperation in combating drugs. Here, I would defer to the statement to be made by Commissioner Flynn of the Commission of the European Community.

The European Community and its member States also reaffirm the importance of international efforts undertaken to eliminate illegal drug crops. These meetings provide us with an opportunity to analyse and assess those efforts and to emphasize the solidarity required between consumer and producer and transit countries. The European Community and its member States have already concluded cooperation agreements with many countries to assist them in identifying, eradicating and replacing the illicit crops used to produce drugs. They are prepared to consider other possibilities.

The Community and its member States are also participating fully in the activities of the Dublin Group, which is organizing informal consultations on drug-related problems between the European Community and Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway, the United States of America, Sweden and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Dublin Group has thus been able, *inter alia*, to hold a meeting at Cartagena to consider the assistance to be given the Colombian judicial system. Meetings devoted to Eastern Europe, Central Europe and the Balkans have also been held in order better to define and organize assistance to the countries of those regions. A multilateral partnership is thus beginning to take shape on the regional level.

As the Economic and Social Council again emphasized at its session last July, the reduction of demand is one of the key objectives of the campaign against drugs and drug abuse. It has a central place in the implementation of the European Plan against drugs adopted by the Council of Europe at Rome in 1990 and updated by the Council of Europe at Edinburgh in 1992.

We feel that a balanced approach to activities designed to reduce demand should be followed up by giving, within a multidimensional approach, suitable priority to prevention and to the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts. As the available statistics indicate, drug abuse affects individuals of all social strata in all age groups, especially the young and, to an increasing degree, women.

Information exchanges at the national, regional and international levels on programmes and policies developed within the framework of reduction of demand would be particularly appropriate. This should be carried out within the framework of existing institutions, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

The European Community and its member States are taking certain initiatives to this end. As an example I would mention the establishment of a European observation post to obtain objective, reliable and comparable data at the European level on all the factors linked to the phenomenon of drug abuse and its often-tragic consequences. The observation post will focus particular attention on demand and its reduction.

The European Community and its member States also wish to recall the important role played by non-governmental organizations, many of which are actively specialized in this sphere, and the contribution they can make in the drawing up and implementation of measures to be undertaken by public authorities to reduce demand and combat drug abuse, particularly in assisting those authorities in mobilizing public opinion and in disseminating messages of prevention, above all to young people.

If our joint struggle against the drug scourge can and must be made more effective through determined action by each of us on the national level and by stepped-up regional

and international cooperation, it will nevertheless remain futile without coordination at the United Nations level.

The adoption of the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action by the General Assembly in 1990 contributed greatly to shaping the international will. With the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in 1991 the international community created the programmes, means and structures most appropriate to pursuing the path we have laid out for ourselves. The assessment exercise in which we are engaged today affords us an opportunity to reiterate the great importance we attach to seeing that our efforts at international cooperation are based on stable, effective and operational structures.

The European Community and its member States are determined to give their full support to the new approaches and methods of action now available to UNDCP for reacting quickly and flexibly to developments and to the diversification of the drug problem throughout the world. In particular, they wish to emphasize the pivotal role assigned to UNDCP, which is entrusted with supervising and coordinating action by the international community in its campaign against drug abuse, identifying new trends, proposing creative solutions and mobilizing the actions undertaken by governmental, non-governmental, regional and international institutions.

The European Community and its member States also support the strategic guidelines of UNDCP, which are based on a tripartite, integrated approach in which a consistent set of national programmes, regional and subregional approaches and international priorities neatly dovetail.

The European Community and its member States fully support the recent efforts of UNDCP to diversify its actions in the fight against drugs, particularly by devoting a greater part of its programmes to reducing demand. They also appreciate the precursor role of UNDCP in certain countries where the drug problem, in terms of production and transit, is extremely acute. In those cases, UNDCP is often the first and the only interlocutor of the authorities involved.

We attach great importance to the effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the United Nations system level. It is of crucial importance to maximizing the effect of the fight against drugs that the various organs of this body, including its financing agencies, be called upon to take immediately, and in their respective spheres, appropriate drug-abuse measures and to include an anti-drug dimension in their policies, programmes and budgets.

It is not, however, sufficient to encourage UNDCP to step up its cooperation with international financial institutions. The Member States of our Organization must for their part continually emphasize in the various directive bodies of these institutions the need to pool their efforts and their work, each one in its respective sector.

The role of coordination within the United Nations system to ensure the success of the Global Programme of Action devolves on UNDCP and its Executive Director, Mr. Giacomelli, for whom the European Community and its member States reiterate their full support. The recent granting to the Executive Director of greater autonomy concerning the management of the services of UNDCP and the staffs made available to him is a tangible sign of the hopes and the confidence our Organization is placing in the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Aware that a consistent and balanced approach to the fight against drug abuse will bear fruit only if UNDCP is given adequate resources, the Community and its member States fervently hope that controlling drug abuse will remain one of the highest priorities in determining the regular budget and the medium-term plan of the United Nations. We urgently call on the international community to send a clear message along these lines. We also appeal for an increase in voluntary contributions, on which UNDCP depends to a great extent to cope with the growing needs which it must meet.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs must remain the primary decision-making organ of the United Nations in the area of drug control. It is that body which approves, on the basis of proposals of the Executive Director, the programme budget of the UNDCP Fund. It plays an extremely important role in the promotion and follow-up of the Global Programme of Action. The European Community and its member States welcome the advocacy by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of an expansion of coordination on all levels, including that of operational activities in the field.

Decision-makers must ensure, through assessment reports, lasting continuity and consistency in the programmes established to fight drug abuse. Measures should be immediately taken to attain this objective. Once these conditions have been met, UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs doubtless will be in a better position to carry out their mandate to exercise

control over the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

A large-scale meeting in 1997 to evaluate this Programme should be considered. The year 1997 could be chosen because it marks the halfway point of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. That evaluation should, in any case, also deal with the measures undertaken by Governments for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and of the international Conventions in the area of the fight against drugs.

I should like to conclude by saying, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, that we are on the eve of a new stage in the building of Europe. The Maastricht Treaty is about to enter into force. Within this framework, the new structures provide for the better organization of deliberations aimed at guaranteeing greater consistency and stepping up cooperation links. The self-motivated and multidisciplinary approach which the European Community and its member States have always hoped to follow in the fight against drugs will only be reaffirmed by this.

The European Community and its member States once again express their conviction that only concerted action based on a sustained determination to step up regional and international cooperation can make it possible to reverse the trend towards the heightening of the drug phenomenon. The global approach at the United Nations level will enable us to give the concerted action of Member States the pluralistic dimension that is indispensable to the success of our joint struggle. That is why the European Community and its member States continue to support the efforts of UNDCP and its Executive Director. We hope that our discussions and the results of our meetings will fully reaffirm this determination on the part of the international community.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Enrique Krauss, Minister of the Interior of Chile.

Mr. KRAUSS (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish):* Allow me, first of all, to express the deep satisfaction of the Government of Chile at the decision taken by the General Assembly to devote four plenary meetings to reviewing the current state of international cooperation in combating the production, consumption and illicit trafficking of drugs.

This is an important opportunity for us to analyse rigorously, in the highest and most qualified international forum, the various effects of illicit drug consumption in the world. The clear gravity of this issue should prompt us to think about how much we are doing, or failing to do, about eliminating this breach of morality from our lives.

My country notes with concern that the drug problem, far from diminishing, is growing in an alarming way in most of our countries. We know that we share this concern with the international community. The priority which the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission has given to the study of new strategies to cope with this question is evidence of this. The important work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme is moving in the same direction.

Chile is no stranger to this painful reality. In recent years, drug abuse has increased in our society. To make matters worse, the use of free-base cocaine has become particularly prevalent, especially among young people, with dangerous effects on their health, as they easily become addicted.

The increase in drug trafficking can also be seen in our country, due not only to internal consumption but also to the use of our territory as a transit country, particularly for cocaine, to Europe and North America.

Money-laundering and the smuggling of essential chemicals, although they are not major problems, are not foreign to our situation. Our country's proximity - so welcome for other reasons - to countries that produce cocaine makes us particularly vulnerable to cocaine trafficking. Chile lacks the natural conditions for producing cocaine.

Moreover, our country's economic development, which has led to a real increase in personal income, has paradoxically turned the country into a consumer market attractive to drug sellers. Our open economic system, which attracts large foreign investment and active foreign trade, also attracts those seeking to hide the source of money from drug trafficking.

In Chile, particularly since the installation of the democratic Government of President Aylwin, we have faced squarely the fight against drugs.

We have ratified and promulgated as a law of the Republic the 1988 United Nations Convention; we have set up a National Council for the Control of Illicit Drugs, which coordinates the activities of all services related to the prevention of drug abuse and the repression of drug trafficking; we have adopted a national policy of drug abuse prevention and control; we have presented to the

national Congress a bill which adapts the regulations currently in force to the 1988 Convention, a bill which will soon be approved by the Senate of the Republic; and we have increased the budgets of the bodies responsible for prevention, control and rehabilitation, which has allowed important programmes to be developed and has increased the efficiency of the state apparatus.

At the international level, we have increased the level of our participation in specialized multilateral agencies and we have signed bilateral conventions with countries in and outside of our region, making every effort to see that they become operative.

We know that a relationship exists between the abuse and trafficking of drugs and the quality of life of peoples. For this reason, we see economic and social development as the primary means of dealing with this scourge. Growth with equity, the cornerstone of our Government, is for us the most appropriate way to deal with the roots of the abuse and trafficking of drugs: poverty, the lack of educational opportunities and the lack of hope. We have therefore enthusiastically supported the World Summit for Social Development which the United Nations will hold in 1995.

Drug abuse is not an isolated problem, and its consideration from an ethical and social point of view shows that criminalizing laws will not suffice to eliminate it. It is essential to develop plans and programmes developed specifically for the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment of addicts, and to act resolutely and rigorously against the criminal organizations whose illegal activities endanger not only the health of the world's peoples but also the security, moral integrity, economy and even the institutions of our nations.

In the opinion of the Chilean Government, the efforts of each of our countries will have limited chances for success without true international cooperation going far beyond mere declarations of intent. We cannot view cooperation for development solely as economic assistance - though that is undoubtedly essential for the most unfortunate countries - but also and particularly as the removal of the impediments standing in the way of free trade for the products of less developed countries, which is essential for the growth that will enable us to bring social justice to our communities.

Here, we find the most just and appropriate path for cooperation in the development of our nations. In addition, we understand that the responsibility for the fight against drugs, which debase individuals and corrupt nations, lies not only with the producer countries but primarily with those whose consumption is greatest, often developed nations which, unfortunately, tend to feel that their actions should focus only on the supply, beyond their borders, rather than on the demand expressed within their own territories.

International cooperation should also be expressed through cooperation in the fight against narcotrafficking, in the form of reciprocal legal cooperation, exchanges of information among the competent authorities of each country, concerted operations among the services responsible for implementing the laws, and periodic meetings allowing for an interchange of experiences and analyses, and other similar activities.

In my country's opinion, cooperation in this field is still insufficient. We see with concern that all too often the will manifested in agreements is not reflected in real cooperation. In the field of drugs, unfortunately, a great deal is written and said but not much is done.

We believe that true cooperation is expressed in the free flow of information on drug trafficking activities which involve more than one country, in the speedy delivery of judicial records and evidence which will hinder the impunity of the branches of illegal organizations which act in a different country from the one in which the judicial proceedings are carried out, in concertation between the police and control services for specific operations, in timely responses to requests for information on suspects, and in a flexible handling of extradition requests. Because the enemy is powerful and enormously wealthy, the response of those of us who, by mandate of our peoples, represent the common good should be effective, speedy and aggressive.

In our judgement, the undeniable political will of our countries to cooperate in the control of drug trafficking should be reflected in our daily action. The situation does not call for sporadic and occasional gestures but for persistent and continuous operations.

The Chilean State is prepared to do this. As many countries have observed, we are already cooperating with other nations and particularly with our neighbours in the most expeditious and flexible way, both in connection with drug trafficking itself and with the trade and contraband of drug-processing products, as well as with money laundering. With the sponsorship of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, we hope in the immediate future to crete regional programmes on these matters.

In our country's opinion, no contradiction should exist between international cooperation and national sovereignty. If the rule of law and the legitimate political authorities of each country are respected, cooperation between our States can be increased. But, we insist, it is essential that in these activities the political, administrative and professional sovereignty of our nations be respected.

In concluding my statement, I wish to reiterate the firm determination of the Chilean State and Government to participate resolutely in the international community's concerted efforts to confront the production, abuse and illicit traffic of drugs, under the principle of shared responsibility and in the framework of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

I would like to emphasize the urgent need to act on this tragic problem. The deaths, the physical and moral destruction, the delinquency resulting from drugs and the social marginalization of addicts - all affect our countries whether they are producers, processors and sellers of drugs, or intermediaries for drugs, including drug-processing products.

Mr. Baltasar Garzón, delegate of Spain's National Drug Plan, who I understand is present at this plenary session, recently asked in a newspaper article, "In the fight against drugs, now what?" He is quite right. "Now what?", we are asked by the sick, the young and the poor of our peoples. Drugs: now what? The answer is up to us.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, Mr. Victor Hugo Cardenas.

Mr. Victor Hugo Cardenas, Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: I have great pleasure in welcoming the Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, His Excellency Mr. Victor Hugo Cardenas, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. CARDENAS (Bolivia) *(interpretation from Spanish):* I am pleased indeed to address this plenary meeting to consider aspects of international cooperation in the control of narcotic drugs.

The presence of distinguished personalities from Member States highlights the importance of this forum; our Organization seems at last to have resolved to deal in depth with the question of international cooperation in the search for solutions to the serious problems posed by the causes and effects of demand, consumption, production, and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs.

This is undoubtedly a difficult topic, especially for countries like mine which suffer the consequences of drug trafficking not by any will of their own but through the influence of those who, in other places, amass fortunes from this reprehensible activity.

Accordingly, we are discouraged to see that our efforts often do not prompt the solidarity from the international community, which should be expressed by substantial contributions to combating this evil.

Bolivia has a Master Plan for Prevention, Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Alternative Development. Prevention, control and development are the three foundations for combating drug trafficking and its consequences, and this threefold approach must be supported in every way if it is to yield results in the fight against drug trafficking.

I must acknowledge that, in my country, the policy of prevention is perhaps the weakest, owing to the shortage of human and financial resources to implement the new National Plan for reduction of drug demand in Bolivia, adopted in 1993. However, some goals have been met with the support of public and private Bolivian and foreign organizations addressing educational tasks and rehabilitation in specialized clinics in the country's major cities.

The policy of illicit drug traffic control has probably been the most successful, for it has succeeded in containing the growth of that activity. Over the last eight years we have seized nearly 90,000 kilograms of illicit drugs at various stages of processing. Similarly, more than 400 factories have been destroyed, and the principal kingpins of organized drug crime have been detained, tried and punished.

The policy of alternative development, originally aimed at replacing surplus coca plantations with other crops, has been planned with a broader perspective, based on the need to transform a whole economy driven largely by coca and its derivatives into a different kind of economy, one based on new lines of production that serve to generate jobs, incomes and foreign exchange, in a framework of balanced and sustained economic and social growth.

In order to replace the coca economy, it has been necessary to supplement the concept of alternative development, gradually moving into other priority areas of the national economy, that is, to expand the concept to one of sustainable development and human development.

More effective reduction of coca shrubs cannot be achieved only by means of law enforcement, nor has the promise of granting cash incentives for each hectare destroyed been sufficient - witness the traumatic experience of my country, the second-ranking coca producer in the world. After cutting surplus plantings by half, at a high social cost, we are discouraged to note that the increase in the consumption of narcotics in the developed societies is in the same proportion as the increase in the poverty of my people.

For my country, a true solution must derive from a strategy to eradicate the poverty that affects more than two thirds of the population, particularly those living in indigenous and rural areas and in city outskirts. That is the context in which the macroeconomic targets and social goals have been defined by Bolivia's new administration, whose aim is to modernize the State while bringing about far-reaching reform in institutional machinery. That reform seeks to strengthen and expand democracy, to preserve our hard-won economic stability, and to reduce poverty.

Recently, President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada proposed a strategy under which surplus coca production could be replaced, not through enforced eradication, but through the alternative means of sustainable economic development associated with productive diversification and greater access to world markets, not only for agricultural products but also for manufactured goods with greater value added.

Pursuing those broad lines of action over the medium term necessarily requires international cooperation with two objectives: support for physical infrastructure works in coca-producing areas, and vigorous support for agro-industrial development programmes in those areas.

We in Bolivia are convinced of the need to promote efficiency in social investment designed to reduce poverty. Taking that approach, we will forge ahead with a policy to foster investments that enhance productive employment and the commitment to bringing the most vulnerable strata of society into the mainstream.

The Rio Group, holding its seventh presidential summit in Santiago, Chile, expressed disappointment at the attitude of the great industrial Powers, which is further weakening the multilateral trade system and affecting the delicate equilibrium of the trade balance of the countries concerned. The Presidents reaffirmed their fight against illicit production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as their condemnation of terrorism, because both constitute a systematic and deliberate violation of human rights. In that same spirit, they noted the need for increased international cooperation within a framework of responsibility shared between the countries affected by production and those characterized by high drug use.

I wish to refer also to other recent directions taken by the major economic Powers.

We have noted answers and explanations that seek to justify the new policy of reallocating a part of the funds earmarked for this campaign, diverting them to other purposes in various parts of the world. This reallocation could prompt a dangerous set-back, leading to the elimination of programmes that are under way. In that event, instead of support for projects with indigenous peasant communities, providing technological resources and education in order to achieve greater grass-roots participation, there could occur a negative backlash, as those communities could very well perceive commitments to cooperation as lacking in seriousness. That works to the detriment of Bolivia and of all countries involved in this struggle against the odds.

Allow me to say that the damage will be greatest to indigenous peoples, whose International Year is being marked in 1993, for it is they who are the first to suffer the impact of these reductions. In this regard, I must report that the Bolivian Government, together with others, is sponsoring the declaration of the international decade of the world's indigenous peoples, a period during which issues central to their future and progress should be addressed.

In my capacity as representative of Bolivia and of the founding peoples of my country, I consider it a privilege to uphold before the conscience of the international community the right of those peoples to recognition of their historical and cultural integrity as a fundamental and integral part of States.

It is my duty to address an appeal to the conscience of the most powerful countries that they not close their eyes to that situation. Bolivia has assumed its share of responsibility, with great effort and sacrifice, despite its shortage of resources. Since 1985 we have contributed significantly to international endeavours to combat drugs,

through a model of our own based on protection of domestic peace, community participation, alternative development, and democratic stability.

The insufficiency and inadequate execution of many of the programmes carried out on the demand side have meant that the efforts exerted by countries like my own have lost the effectiveness needed to achieve satisfactory overall results.

We understand that there are problems in many parts of the world which call for urgent assistance, but we are convinced that priorities should be geared to consolidating and enhancing the efficiency of existing programmes and machinery in the fight against drug trafficking.

I cannot fail to mention the negotiations with the Dublin Group of countries. We reiterate our appeal that the valuable help, now hampered by slow and complex approval machinery, be made more dynamic. Their aid is essential for financial and technical support of anti-drug programmes in our countries.

My Government is convinced of the need to strengthen multilateral mechanisms. We see the strengthening of these programmes as an outcome of this important event.

My Government expresses its gratitude and its support for the important task that is being carried out by Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

We are faced with a great paradox: although mankind has created unprecedented conditions for scientific and technological development, poverty and the inability to tackle the basic problems of four fifths of the world's population are growing steadily. The illegality of the processes linked to the production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is contributing dangerously to that dramatic gap.

The time has therefore come for a careful review of the orientation of the strategies and policies we have shared in recent years. It is up to us to provide remedies to these evils and to shoulder our responsibility with optimism and resolve for our societies and future generations.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Victor Hugo Cardenas, Vice-President of the Republic of Bolivia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mrs. Simone Veil, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Affairs, Health and Urban Planning of France.

Mrs. VEIL (France) *(interpretation from French)*: We are gathered here for a meeting of extraordinary importance. Three years after the special session of the General Assembly in February 1990, we are taking stock of action taken in an attempt to chart, in the light of that review, new ways to make our action more effective if need be.

At first glance, the picture seems extremely gloomy. A French weekly recently had a headline on this subject that read "Drugs: the lost war?" Have we really reached that point?

I do not believe that it is possible to assert that the war on drugs has already been lost and has therefore become pointless, but I agree that it is indeed a war, which now has the planet for its theatre and poverty as its prop. We used to speak in terms of very limited areas. That is no longer the case. The consuming North was set against the producing South. The situation has changed considerably. Everyone is affected now, and everyone bears a share of responsibility, great or small. There are now countries of the North producing cannabis, while in the South the geography of production is in perpetual flux.

The scourge is also striking the transit countries, themselves afflicted by the porosity inherent in these networks of corruption; the trade routes of drug trafficking follow the lines of least political, economic and social resistance.

Moreover, the range of narcotic drugs has expanded. Huge pharmaceutical laboratories offer a whole gamut of products, amphetamines or hallucinogens, which are illegally exported to the poor countries.

These realities highlight even more the destabilizing nature of the illicit traffic in drugs at the geopolitical level. The inclusion of a country in the drug traffic network soon entails, the exacerbation of all types of social problems for that country. In this respect, I should like to draw attention to the particularly alarming situation of Africa. That continent, where certain ports and airports serve as transit points, is currently under the greatest threat, while the efforts of the major United Nations agencies trying to deal with the problem are still concentrating too much on other parts of the world. For Africa, the "war on drugs" must henceforth be a part of all assistance and cooperation programmes approved or financed by the development agencies, whether the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank or bilateral assistance programmes.

The increase in drug trafficking naturally implies a corresponding increase in demand. The number of illicit consumers of narcotic drugs continues to grow throughout the world. It is expanding rapidly in the countries of the South, adding an additional evil to the social problems of every type that already plague those societies. The tragic problem of the spread of the AIDS pandemic is further aggravated by drug addiction and inadequate prevention in that area. It is no longer a question of a scourge limited to rich countries and populations seeking new thrills in response to society's shortcomings; today, we are all affected. The result of this exacerbated situation is the dazzling wealth of the drug trade. The turnover, estimated at $500 billion, is over four times the gross national product of the 53 least developed countries.

The challenge is therefore global and the stakes are high. We are dealing with the very future of our societies, above all because the main target of the drug trade everywhere is young people - and that target population is becoming ever younger. In France the average age of the cannabis consumer is 22; of the heroin consumer, 26; and of the cocaine consumer, 28. As if that did not make the picture bleak enough, it is further darkened by the ravages of AIDS among drug addicts. Indeed, we cannot underestimate the importance of that factor in the spread of the HIV virus.

Considerable energy, therefore, must be dedicated to this struggle. Determination and unflagging effort are the keys to success. They must be absolute. That is why we must be extremely careful not to yield in a fight which some consider already lost nor to give into the temptation to be defeatist. The situation is too serious to throw up our hands in resignation.

But does this mean that we have done nothing in three years, that the picture should make us despair? Some glimmers of hope exist. Let us review them.

First, awareness of extent of the challenge has considerably increased. Some debates that were until recently considered controversial now seem to be over - for instance, the difference between the countries of the North, rightly obsessed with the question of supply, and the countries of the South, inclined to consider that the problem was above all one for the rich, and that it was up to them to settle it. Some parts of the debate about sovereignty also seem obsolete. We have had to accept the reality of the world of the drug dealers, who scorn national frontiers and legislation.

It seems to me, therefore, that if we have yet to measure up to the challenge, we are better placed to do so, primarily because we have acquired potentially very effective legal tools. At the national level, first, countries have begun to react. In France, for instance, we have adopted an arsenal of regulations and legislation to deal with the problem. In particular, we have acquired the means to fight money laundering. At the administrative level, we have established an interministerial coordination body, the Delegation General for the War on Drugs and Addiction, under my authority as Minister for Social Affairs and Health. Every ministry involved is represented. We have also considerably increased the financial resources devoted to the war on drug abuse.

Drugs threaten the very existence of our societies. But it is wrong to imagine that repressive solutions alone will enable us to resolve such a complex problem, which though it very much concerns the public authorities, concerns no less the individual and his personal behaviour, his health and his social and family relationships. This phenomenon, whose consequences are tragic, is so complex that all its dimensions must be grasped if our preventive measures are to be truly effective.

We cannot ignore the pressures drug dealers put on potential consumers or the trap that closes on petty dealers, who, having sought to make easy money, end up becoming consumers themselves. But these things do not explain everything. We need to ask ourselves why young people seek in the high or the apathy induced by drugs a way to escape from reality. Is it a crisis of identity inherent in modern societies; a loss of traditional values and taboos; a flight from a future darkened by economic crises and constant social change?

Whatever the cause, public authorities must make a special effort to adapt prevention to specific sectors of society. Experience teaches us that a message on prevention has meaning only in terms of the target ages and groups. It must be drawn up with the help of those who specialize in the areas concerned: psychologists, sociologists and teachers. That has been France's aim under my authority, with the provision of better care for the sick in order to reintegrate the greatest possible number of them into society.

On the international level, the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances has entered into force. Eighty States have now ratified it. I appeal for the broadest possible ratification of the Convention.

But ratification is not enough. We must be stricter in ensuring that we respect our commitments under the Convention. Through the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations is making praiseworthy efforts to promote full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention and to create on the local level a climate favouring respect for those commitments. The Organization is also engaged in improving the environment, including the legal and administrative environment, necessary for such cooperation to succeed.

Even that is not enough. We expect UNDCP to be more self-motivated on this essential subject. Each year, the Executive Director of UNDCP should report fully on the Programme's activities: its successes and its failures alike. For the benefit of countries that have made serious efforts to implement the Convention, especially developing countries, it should also recommend positive measures in terms of access to international credits from major international or regional development or financing agencies.

But we need to go further. I suggest that our experts get right to work on ways of strengthening means of monitoring and implementing the 1988 Convention, possibly through a protocol that would establish a forum that could impose penalties or, in the last resort, sanctions. This would, of course, require a considerable but, in our view, necessary broadening of the purview of the International Narcotics Control Board.

UNDCP, founded only two years ago, aroused great expectations among Member States and contributing States, and it continues to do so. Under the effective guidance of Mr. Giacomelli, it is beginning to achieve results. But we are still far from the target. First UNDCP needs a substantial increase in the funds made available to it by States.

The Programme must also act with determination and authority in the areas of its competence; it must firmly reassert its purpose of coordinating activities carried out elsewhere, within and outside the United Nations system. It must work on a more regular basis with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); there has been much progress, but that cooperation must be made even closer, while respecting the autonomy of both organizations.

Above all, we must avoid institutional proliferation, which can impair the effectiveness of our struggle. We must cut through the undergrowth of existing bodies, a task to which I hope the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will devote its attention. France will submit a document containing specific proposals on this matter.

UNDCP must also be ever ready for new fields of action, three of which I view as deserving special priority.

The first relates to investigating the financial networks used by drug traffickers: the fight against money laundering. Several States, including France, already have the legislative means to do this; very effective cooperation has been established within the framework of the Financial Action Task-Force on Money Laundering. Similar structures are being established in every region. Now is the time to ensure overall consistency, a task which could fall to UNDCP. UNDCP should also be responsible for the dissemination of technological expertise for early identification of zones of production and transit points. Surveillance by satellite and finding means of monitoring more effectively the tens of thousands of containers that pass daily through the world's ports are interesting ideas, and France would consider providing firm support and stepping up its cooperation.

The second field of action is the priority area of prevention. Too often, suppression and prevention are viewed as incompatible. But a policy for a war on illicit drugs can be based only on both those two priorities. The French Government understands this complementarity and has decided to set up a commission composed not of experts but of "wise men" open to considering societal problems; this commission is charged with studying the problems - social, economic and medical problems of course, but also broader ethical and even philosophical problems - that the phenomenon of drug addiction raises for our country.

The same must be done, in a scaled-up version, on an international level. UNDCP must do more to collect data on the most affected categories, on the motivations of those involved, and on experiments throughout the world to take immediate action to increase awareness among children and youth and to provide adequate treatment.

Will those measures suffice? Clearly not. At best, we can stem the evil more or less effectively. The situation demands that we explore a third field of action. In some countries, the fight against the production and trafficking in illicit drugs is a question of survival for the State - drug dealers have infiltrated too deeply and too widely - and has caused too severe an institutional gangrene, especially among the guarantors of the rule of law, such as the judiciary and the police, for those countries to achieve a solution on their own, whatever their determination to do so. I am thinking of situations where drug trafficking circles have allied themselves with terrorist movements which they equip and finance an attempt to destabilize regimes that dare to oppose their domination.

I propose that together, without excluding any possibilities, we think about creating specific machinery to focus action on limited-duration bilateral and multilateral plans to solve the problem. Such exceptional action, of course, could take place only at the request of the country involved. It could include cooperation strengthened by the assignment of specialized police personnel, and should also involve the major international financial institutions and the main organization of the United Nations system.

Our struggle will not be won in a year or in five years. We are talking about an entire decade. But it is urgent that we move to respond, and that we put aside our differences, given the dimensions of the challenge before us all.

I can affirm that France will always stand by the side of the international community in this struggle. In this mobilization, international and French public opinion will guarantee our victory. For the very foundations of our societies are at stake. In the nineteenth century, the international community managed to respond effectively to piracy. In a very different and perhaps even more difficult context, we need to find a common response commensurate with this new and terrible challenge. I have no doubt that we shall be able to do so.

The PRESIDENT: I call now on His Excellency The Honourable Senator Antonino Murmura, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Interior of Italy.

Mr. MURMURA (Italy) *(spoke in Italian; English text furnished by the delegation):* I am very pleased to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Italian Government and the Minister of Interior of Italy on the occasion of these plenary meetings devoted to the drug problem, one of the most serious evils affecting today's society.

I realize that there is no sure cure for a global and complex problem such as the one of drug abuse, and I am convinced that there is an urgent need to devise operational tools and formulas in step with a fast-changing reality; nevertheless, I am equally aware that this discussion must be based upon concrete matters: on the guidelines and on the means to be put to common use if our Government institutions are to give an adequate response to this common threat.

My opinion is still that it is not enough to agree upon cooperation measures, by means of conventions, bilateral agreements, and political accords of a different nature, if such agreements are not coupled with consistent behaviour and a precise fulfilment of the obligations agreed upon.

For this reason, Italy has actively participated in the creation of a common international drug legislation and has signed all the relevant United Nations Conventions.

Italy has been supporting the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which it considers to be the natural forum effectively to combat drugs. Lately, the UNDCP has improved its autonomy in the management of financial and human resources with the aim of achieving more successful results.

It is therefore necessary for the international community to afford to UNDCP all possible technical and financial resources so that the common goals claimed by the highest authorities are not frustrated at the most crucial moments, that is to say whenever we are to produce specific actions and tangible results.

It is now a common conviction that the only way to fight this phenomenon is through increased, consistent cooperation, particularly in two areas: the project against money laundering and the project against drug trafficking by sea.

With regard to money laundering, the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force must be considered and adapted to various national legislations. To this end we need to create a network of shared instruments and of mutual investigative and legal assistance.

The suppression of drug-trafficking by sea is particularly important for Italy, and we feel there is a need to establish, especially in these fields, effective cooperation with other countries which share this opinion with us.

Furthermore, a draft convention of the Council of Europe to implement article 17 is being studied by a panel of experts chaired by Italy.

Along the same lines, Italy is also setting up a computerized system to exchange information on drug trafficking, the so-called Teledrug. Teledrug will operate uninterrupted around the clock and will enhance the capabilities of drug enforcement in participating countries within the framework of the United Nations Conventions.

The United Nations Conventions, the 1987 Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline, and the 1990 Global Programme of Action are the cornerstones of Italy's drug law, which takes into equal consideration the need to combat narcotic drug trafficking as well as drug abuse prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts to whom we should be devoting more attention.

I should like to make clear that, although the result of the Italian referendum of 18 April has eliminated prison sentences for the possession of drugs for personal use, it has, however, upheld the principle that possession is illegal and punishable by administrative sanctions.

Italians have shown their dislike for past legislation on drugs but this absolutely does not imply the liberalization of drug use or drug dealing.

The drug phenomenon should not be seen as an isolated phenomenon. We must not ignore the complex ties between drug trafficking and other criminal activities, first and foremost, money laundering and, more generally, organized crime. Moreover we must not ignore the connection between drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

The same strategy of international cooperation that must guide the war on drugs should also shape the methods we use to fight money laundering and arms smuggling. We shall fight them equally energetically. Italy's laws against these phenomena are particularly severe and detailed. We hope other States will base their drug laws upon these principles in order to create a common front of law enforcement to combat the transnational activities of organized crime.

That is why I must express my concerns over the growing trend towards legalizing drugs and the fatalistic attitude that the war against drugs is a "lost cause". I believe these attitudes could be very dangerous because they may weaken our commitment against narcotic drugs trafficking and against the other problems I have already mentioned.

On the contrary, we should be addressing drug trafficking, money laundering and arms smuggling as three different aspects of the same criminal activity carried out by international organized crime which day by day is becoming more relentless and ferocious.

Therefore this should not be for us the moment for discouragement and disengagement, but rather it should be the moment to renew and enhance our determination in this war which should also be fuelled by the positive results achieved in recent times in drug suppression, thanks to closer international cooperation between police forces and judicial authorities.

In Italy, better domestic coordination of law enforcement agencies, increased cooperation with the specialized agencies of other countries, and the adoption of new techniques envisaged by the new drug law, such as controlled deliveries and undercover purchases, have led in the past three years to successful results which were never possible in the past.

We intend to continue along these lines, by strengthening legal instruments, increasing the number of drug liaison officers posted abroad, and enhancing controls to combat the diversion of precursor chemicals to illicit production.

Italy also wishes to reiterate its confidence in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, first, to UNDCP and its Executive Director, Ambassador Giacomelli, and expresses its utmost dislike of those initiatives designed to limit its autonomy, efficiency and management.

From the very outset UNDCP has adopted a well-balanced global strategy with which Italy fully agrees. It is clear that only by working on the one hand to reduce drug demand and supply and on the other hand to suppress drug trafficking can we hope to obtain genuine results.

Italy finds particularly interesting the initiative started by UNDCP to involve more actively the non-governmental organizations, the voluntary workers, the media, the private sector, local institutions and the international sports movement in common action.

In particular, Italy hopes that international financial institutions will be involved in common efforts for an alternative development such as substituting the cultivation of drug crops because so far they have shown little interest in this social aspect of the drug problem.

To the problem of alternative development as well as the achievement of a common United Nations strategy to combat drugs, we intend to direct our proposal, which I am honoured to present on this occasion on behalf of the Italian Government, to organize in Italy a United Nations world conference on drugs with particular emphasis on heroin. It will take place in the first half of 1996 and will be a follow-up to the Conference that was held in London in April 1990.

We said that there is no sure remedy to the drug problem; so we should consider all the difficulties and problems posed by illicit drug abuse to individuals, communities and Governments at all levels. This approach should be based upon our great respect for life and for human beings.

Within this framework Italy believes we should work for a common, deep and detailed study of the drug problem, to share experience, to make efforts at both domestic and international levels in a spirit of genuine solidarity and mutual assistance which Italy deems necessary to guarantee to us all, and especially to the generations of the young, a future of dignity and civilized progress as outlined in the Charter that established the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on His Excellency, Mr. Baltasar Garzón Real of Spain, delegate of the Government for the National Drug Plan.

Mr. GARZON REAL (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish):* I wish to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on the way in which you are conducting these high-level plenary meetings on drugs. For me, it is a great honour to have the opportunity to speak at this rostrum.

I wish to express my delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the States members of the European Community.

The United Nations is the most appropriate forum for discussion of an issue that affects so many countries and should be approached from the perspective of its general impact. The drug problem is a world-wide issue involving the countries that produce drugs, those that process them, those that operate as transit points and those in which drugs are consumed. Moreover, the issue is complex in terms of harmful effects: drugs destroy their victims, generate petty crime and felonies, encourage the undermining of society and enable those who profit from them to dominate segments of society and to gain power by buying or corrupting free will.

To combat this world-wide and complex phenomenon, we must abandon local solutions that underestimate the magnitude of the problem and are based on the mistaken idea that drugs are produced by others and that we are the ones who suffer. But we must not forget that, first, it is necessary for States to coordinate their own efforts and policies so that, once the structure is firm, we may be able to achieve wider coordination. Only a coordinated structure at the very basis will make it possible, with the support and leadership of the United Nations, to give the police and the judicial authorities more scope for action and make possible the development of intelligent policies to deal with those engaged in organized crime whose main activity is drug trafficking and laundering the profits thereof.

The need for our common determination to lead to coordinated responses should pervade our cool thinking about the current state of the problem. The time has come to pause and meditate on the solutions that should be adopted. I intend to advocate, in my country, the opening of a general debate to evaluate what has been achieved and to think about the future. We should come to this debate without any preconceived ideas or immovable dogmas. We must be open to the exchange of ideas.

A similar process of reflection, within and from the United Nations, would be appropriate. This proposal is based on the conviction that the United Nations is the most appropriate forum and the optimum sounding-board for an exchange of ideas and for the adoption of decisions on new lines of action that would help us achieve our objectives. I should like to stress here the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is the main policy-making body of the United Nations in the field of drug control.

The strategies to combat the production of and trafficking in drugs should complement and be integrated into programmes to reduce demand. Efforts in a single area of activity cannot be effective, as they result in our losing sight of the need for a global approach. Hence, it is absolutely necessary that there be determined support for general prevention programmes that engender an authentic culture of the rejection of drugs in their broadest sense. But it must not be forgotten that prevention has to include

avoidance of the dangers of organized crime - a problem that it is essential we combat resolutely and intelligently.

On the other hand, with regard to drug consumption, it must be recognized that a drug addict should be regarded not as a criminal but as someone who is ill. Drug consumption should therefore be dealt with by administrative penalty - never by criminal action. Appropriate rehabilitation should be made available to enable the addict to be reintegrated into society. My country applies this policy so that, with the cooperation of all the relevant public institutions and non-governmental organizations, such recovery may be achieved. On this front, it is necessary also to have coordinated policies that are as broadly based as possible. We are developing a series of measures to ensure that drug addicts receive proper help from health and social services, on an equal footing with other citizens. Throughout the country - at the regional and local levels - we have a network of assistance resources.

Spain's National Drug Plan incorporates these different levels, and there is an input from public resources and from flexible and dynamic non-governmental organizations with a view to achieving more positive results in the rehabilitation of drug addicts and of their families and social settings and to provide some solutions for those who are dependent on drugs. In Spain, as in many other countries, the most serious health problems of drug consumers are those that result from HIV infection. Preventive measures to reduce the practice of injecting drugs are essential if the spread of this infection is to be controlled. As drugs are a social scourge, it is essential that society be actively involved in solving the problem. Otherwise, any policy will fail.

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action in Member States requires ongoing encouragement at the international level and a firm commitment from every country. To this end, the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report are an invaluable guide.

My country has been following actively the process of modifying the United Nations structures in the field of drugs. We welcome the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), as well as the consolidation of an appropriate administrative structure. This consolidation should enable UNDCP and its Executive Director, to whom we again express our support and esteem, to discharge fully their function of coordinating international activities in this field, while ensuring flexible and effective management.

There remains the challenge of ensuring that the catalyst of the UNDCP will penetrate the United Nations system. In the present decade, the involvement of other agencies and the cooperation of international financial institutions, including provisions in their programmes and activities aimed at preventing the production of, trafficking in and consumption of drugs, are indispensable.

The need for new approaches in the fight against drugs must extend to the control of drug trafficking. We must provide ourselves with the most suitable legal instruments and the best human and material resources. The response to the activities of organized crime must match the complexity of its schemes. We must consider resorting to collaborators, informers, infiltrations, witness protection programmes, the monitoring of deliveries and international police and judicial cooperation, and we must work towards adopting standards in this respect. Hence it will be necessary to improve coordination between the UNDCP and the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

However, success in the fight against drug trafficking cannot be bought at the cost of respect for fundamental rights. However complex the problem, Governments must not resort to criminal activity as a justification for violating the rules of democracy or the human rights of individuals. There is no reason of State greater than the democratic reason of its citizens.

My country, as a member of the European Community and the Council of Europe, is prepared to cooperate now and in the immediate future because it understands the gravity of the drug phenomenon. It will therefore actively support the Community's policy and always promote policies devised in broad consensus with other countries.

The Maastricht Treaty, which will soon come into force, will require greater European cooperation in the fight against drugs. My country, as a member of the European Communities, is prepared to cooperate actively towards the attainment of that objective. At the same time Spain will pursue its efforts to cooperate with the countries of Latin America and North Africa in facing up to such complex challenges as those presented here, nurturing the right to free and democratic development and the establishment of more just and equitable international economic relations. We must not forget that the countries affected must be offered alternative solutions and resolute support so that they can face the problem.

The results achieved at these meetings will have my Government's attention, and I am sure that the

Commission on Narcotic Drugs will take into account the work that lies ahead of us. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs must be the forum in which the initiatives here identified - such as the one most rightly proposed by Mexico - are developed, and in which all countries have the opportunity to express their concerns and receive a suitable response.

The magnitude of the drug problem, which is becoming quite clear in the course of this debate, demands the firm and concerted action of all members of the international community.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Torben Lund, Minister of Health of Denmark.

Mr. LUND (Denmark): First of all I should like to endorse fully the statement made earlier today by His Excellency Mr. Melchior Wathelet, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice and Economic Affairs of Belgium, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Like other delegates I wish also to make a brief national statement.

The fight against drug-related crime continues to be a task of high priority for the Danish police. Considerable resources are used to fight drug crime at the national level, and the Danish police play an active role in the comprehensive international cooperation which takes place both within the European Community and outside it.

But in Denmark we are very much aware that law enforcement alone will not curb the increase in drug crimes. Decisive weight should be given to a coordinated and balanced effort which comprises law enforcement and initiatives in both the social sector and the health sector.

Developments in the drug area over the past few years call for a reconsideration of priorities. In Denmark we have discussed how best to use the considerable resources which are spent in the fight against illicit drugs.

Developments over the past few years have shown that even a comprehensive law-enforcement strategy will not by itself solve the problem of illicit drugs. Moreover, police campaigns have been seen to have certain adverse effects. Among these are increased profits for the men behind organized drug crime and further degradation of life conditions among the people who are caught up in drug abuse.

Therefore, I believe that we have reached the point where we must realize that there is a need for new approaches to the drug problem. I am not referring to the legalization of the non-medical use of drugs. Regarding this question the Danish Government fully agrees with the views and conclusions against legalization expressed by the International Narcotics Control Board. In situations where border controls are being reduced or abolished, the three United Nations Conventions which attempt to limit the use of drugs strictly to medical and scientific purposes are of special importance.

The Danish Government therefore wants to keep up the police efforts against the men behind organized drug crime. But at the same time we must consider a new approach to the drug abusers. There may be a need to shift the focus of our efforts from law enforcement to prevention and treatment. This change of priorities should be mirrored also in international cooperation.

In my view a change in our approach to drug abusers may be carried out in a controlled way so as to benefit both the drug abusers and society. In general, Danish prevention activities rest on the premise that the most important measures are of a general nature: we must ensure that children and young people grow up with good conditions of life and with free scope to develop their abilities.

In Denmark the information aspect is traditionally considered to be very important. The basic principles for information about drugs are to provide objective knowledge rather than to create fear and to increase awareness rather than to moralize. It is important to initiate debate in the social groups where young people meet, as well as in society in general.

A substantial part of prevention and education activities concerning substance abuse is carried out at the local level. The activities are run by public organizations, such as regional youth centres and schools, and by drug-abuse counsellors. Coordination groups have been set up which consist of representatives from the local schools, the social sector and the police. These efforts are supported at the national level by coordination measures, professional advice and information material.

In Denmark the organization and implementation of social relief measures in relation to drug addicts are decentralized. Responsibility lies with the counties and the municipal authorities. It is the task of the municipal authorities to alleviate the general social problems of individuals and families. The task of the counties is to

contribute in the case of individuals, such as drug addicts, requiring special treatment.

Public services aimed at drug addicts are complemented by work undertaken by private or voluntary charity organizations. The Danish Government provides funding for those organizations.

Treatment measures focus on the actual addiction problem as well as on the underlying reasons for addiction, and a variety of social remedies are made use of. Initiatives involve resocialization, rehabilitation and care. The overall aim is to improve living conditions from both a social and a health point of view.

The question of groups with severe social problems, including drug addicts, is given high priority by the Danish Government. The Minister for Social Affairs closely follows efforts in this field in order to ensure that adequate treatment and social-relief measures are available in counties and municipalities.

Finally, I should like to confirm Danish support for coordinated international action in the fight against illicit drugs. In this respect the role of the United Nations, and especially the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, is crucial. Denmark expects that the Programme will play a major role in future international efforts against drug abuse.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. James B. Moultrie, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

Mr. MOULTRIE (Bahamas): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that are States Members of the United Nations.

CARICOM States are deeply disturbed by the severity of the illicit drug problem, the devastating consequences of which are substantiated by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and other competent bodies. The problem continues unabated nearly a century after the international community began cooperative efforts for drug-abuse control at Shanghai in 1909. It persists notwithstanding the rigorous and decisive action taken in recent years to improve the institutions, rules and programmes of the international régime for controlling the illicit production and abuse of, and trafficking in, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

This is not to say that drug-abuse control efforts have not yielded tangible, substantive and measurable results. They have. Those results have, however, fallen far short of what is required for the control - and certainly for the elimination - of the illicit-drug problem. Consequently, the General Assembly has challenged us to examine urgently the status of international cooperation in drug-abuse control and to strengthen and enhance that cooperation with a view to pursuing and achieving key drug-control objectives at the national, regional and international levels. The CARICOM States are encouraged that this initiative focuses on the international drug-control system, which for nearly 50 years has been centred in the United Nations. An examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the system is essential to set in motion a process to increase its effectiveness.

The CARICOM States hold that the effectiveness of the drug-abuse control system is dependent on the political will and commitment of States to take decisive action to make it work. It is States that must ratify the international drug-control treaties, which contribute significantly to the global fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. CARICOM States realize, however, that the full impact of the treaties will not be felt until all States ratify them and implement their provisions.

The Secretary-General reports that an increasing number of States are in fact ratifying the treaties. CARICOM States are among those that have ratified all the treaties, and one CARICOM State, the Bahamas, was the very first to ratify the 1988 Convention. We can therefore join in launching an organized effort to encourage universal ratification of the treaties and to give priority to the implementation of or adherence to their provisions. CARICOM States are also among those that have administrative measures for the control of both the illicit and licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that are endeavouring to bring national legislation into line with the provisions of the treaties.

While we believe that preference should not be given to any one of the drug-control treaties, CARICOM States support efforts to implement the provisions of the 1988 Convention that introduce new elements in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. These include article 5, on confiscation, article 7, on mutual legal assistance, and article 12, concerning precursors and essential chemicals. There has already been some experience within our subregion of materially cooperating with other States for the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking. Those proceeds have been shared between the cooperating Governments. It is experiences

such as these that must serve as examples of enhancing international cooperation in drug-abuse control.

Article 10 of the 1988 Convention, on international cooperation and assistance to transit States, also suggests a new strategy for counteracting the drug problem, a strategy that is of particular importance to CARICOM States. We are all affected in varying degrees of severity by the illicit transit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from source and supply centres in South America to illicit markets in North America and Europe. Whether directly or indirectly, this illicit transit traffic has had an impact on the people of all of our countries, subjecting or exposing them to the scourge of drug abuse. It has torn at the fibres of society in our small island developing States and has obliged our Governments to divert scarce resources from socio-economic development to wage costly battles against illicit trafficking networks and to put in place expensive treatment and rehabilitation strategies.

Through our own efforts, subregional efforts and joint efforts with other countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, we have achieved some success in bringing this illicit transit traffic under control, but it has been at a price that CARICOM Governments can ill afford to continue to pay. We therefore urge major donors, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to give special attention to article 10 in international efforts to implement the 1988 Convention.

CARICOM States are directly in the maritime routes from South to North America. Virtually all smuggling networks into and through our subregion, including the frequently used drug-drop method, involve some activity at sea. We therefore support and will participate to the extent possible in current CND and UNDCP efforts to implement article 17 of the 1988 Convention on illicit traffic by sea. We agree that initiatives in this area must take fully into account international law and practice, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Primary responsibility for drug-abuse control rests with Governments, which must accord it high priority. This is the approach to which we agreed in the Global Programme of Action. CARICOM States believe that progress in achieving the objectives of the Global Programme of Action depends on how we perceive it. We see the Programme as much more than a consensus product of the General Assembly. It is a landmark agreement, a blueprint setting out comprehensive courses of action for all aspects of drug-abuse control and an essential element in the global strategy for drug-abuse control.

The master plan approach which the UNDCP promotes provides a strategy for maximizing efforts to implement the Programme. CARICOM States regard master plans not as project documents, but as the articulation by Governments of their priorities and objectives in all areas of drug control and the steps which they intend to take to implement them. Master plans are nevertheless aids to international cooperation, providing a ready reference to the UNDCP, the United Nations system and the donor community of the areas developing country Governments have identified for priority action. CARICOM States can also support the impetus to establish of national coordinating machinery for drug-abuse control, since these make for more comprehensive and coherent strategies at the national level.

We know that satisfactory progress has yet to be made in a number of important areas of the Programme. More must be done in the demand-reduction area, particularly by major consuming countries. In this regard, we are heartened by the recent statement by President Clinton of the United States.

CARICOM States support balanced drug-control strategies, which give appropriate priority to both primary prevention and treatment and rehabilitation. The development of drug-abuse assessment systems to monitor the nature, extent and patterns of drug abuse, the intensification of education and public information programmes and the establishment of partnerships with non-governmental organizations are all strategies we support. We are also prepared to consider creative approaches to demand reduction, including the creation of international obligations in this area.

There is an urgent need to think and act creatively to support strategies that stimulate socio-economic growth and reinforce alternative rural development in developing countries where narcotic drugs are produced. CARICOM States believe that the evident links between poverty and deprivation and illicit drug production and trafficking in developing countries must be fully explored. Priority must also be given to restructuring international economic relations to ensure that the international economic system responds effectively to the efforts of developing countries to move their people away from illicit narcotics production to alternative crops. The interest demonstrated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in these areas is promising. Debt-for-drugs swaps are currently

being considered. CARICOM States hope to see positive results in this area, results which take into account and include indebted transit States.

The UNDCP, created by the General Assembly to lead and coordinate international drug-abuse-control efforts within the United Nations system and internationally, is to serve as the crucible for forging new ideas and approaches. The UNDCP has shown great promise in its three short years of operation. We are anxious to see it attain its full potential. We wish to emphasize here that while it is essential to give a degree of flexibility to the UNDCP, it is, in the final analysis, an instrument in the hands of Governments. It will make a distinct and valuable contribution only if Governments give it clear directives and the authority and prestige to carry them out. Diverse and equitable participation in the work of the UNDCP will provide the depth of experience essential for formulating viable drug-control strategies and policies to meet objectives in all regions of the world.

Regional cooperation, which UNDCP advocates, complemented by international cooperation, provides an important line of defence against the drug menace. Channels of communication with non-governmental organizations will ensure that UNDCP benefits from their hands-on, grass-roots experience. For example, UNDCP stands to benefit in its demand-reduction efforts from the World Conference on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Demand Reduction, scheduled to take place in 1994. The United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse provides an important time frame for intensified drug-control initiatives. CARICOM States believe, given these factors, that UNDCP can and will meet our expectations.

UNDCP must be assisted by the United Nations system in its effort to lead and coordinate an international response commensurate with the global dimensions of the illicit-drug crisis. We therefore support the System-Wide Action Plan Drug Abuse Control as an instrument for effective, system-wide cooperation. We urge the entities and agencies of the system to make determined efforts to formulate agency-specific implementation plans which incorporate the Action Plan, and urge that Member States in oversight bodies keep their action for drug-abuse control fully under review. We also support close cooperation between the UNDCP and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on transnational drug-related crime.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the principal policy-making body for drug-abuse control within the United Nations system. It must determine the principles and procedures for strengthening international cooperation, accelerating the pace of drug-control countermeasures and improving its own functioning. This high-level session is set to pass on to the Commission a number of important tasks which will require penetrating analysis of leading socio-economic, legal, political and security questions arising from the illicit-drug phenomenon. To carry out these tasks effectively, the Commission must function according to its mandate as a body of experts in the drug-related fields. CARICOM States believe it would be appropriate for the Commission to turn to a core group of experts from among its Member States to assist it in implementing the mandates of the high-level session, a task in which it should also be assisted by the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and the Subcommission.

CARICOM States will also support the request to the Economic and Social Council to give priority to the consideration of drug-control issues. We intend to participate fully when the Council examines the coordination aspects of drug-abuse control, as well as in its high-level review of the drug problem.

It is impossible, in these times of shrinking resources, to consider international cooperation in drug-abuse control without examining the question of funding. We cannot expect the UNDCP to implement its extensive mandate or to be competent and influential without sufficient resources. But there is another side to this resource question: the cost to developing countries, including those of CARICOM, of waging a war against international drug traffickers, whose resources can exceed those of Governments themselves. The financial outlay constitutes a formidable obstacle to development. We therefore support the appeal that more resources should be allocated to the drug area and that States in a position to do so should increase contributions to the Fund of the UNDCP to enable it to assist developing countries better in their drug-control efforts.

No State can rely solely on its own efforts to control the illicit production, trafficking and demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Each has an essential role to play in enforcing global standards and norms to control this transnational problem. The Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking said that drug-abuse control was the collective responsibility of all States, a principle reiterated by the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly and in numerous resolutions and decisions throughout the United Nations system. Although boundaries should not

constitute insuperable obstacles to our collective efforts, CARICOM States are unequivocal in their view that shared responsibility for drug control must fully respect international law and practice, including the provisions of the United Nations Charter. This approach is essential if we are to prevent tensions from arising between countries which must be partners in the war against drugs.

This high-level session must be a catalyst for dynamic and effective cooperation in international drug control, grounded in the progress we have made. Regional organizations and arrangements, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and CARICOM are playing an essential role in making the drug-control system truly global. The International Narcotics Control Board continues to maintain the high standards of its critical work of monitoring implementation of the international drug-control treaties and ensuring that States do not suffer from inertia in meeting their obligations under the international drug-control treaties. In its 1992 report, for example, the Board effectively dispelled the notion that legislation was an option for effective implementation of the drug-control treaties, a position which CARICOM States fully support.

Our goals are attainable, but we must be willing to make the fundamental policy adjustments necessary to confront new and emerging manifestations of the illicit-drug problem. A truly global response equal to the present-day challenge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking demands twenty-first-century solutions to this recurring twentieth-century scourge. There can be no erosion of the political priority for drug-abuse control. CARICOM States are fully committed to the strengthening of international cooperation in this critical area.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Louis Galea, Minister for Home Affairs and Social Development of Malta.

Mr. GALEA (Malta): We are gathered here today, this great family of nations, to consider once again at a global level the situation regarding drug abuse and illicit trafficking, to review the measures being adopted and the unstinting efforts required to deal with the problem effectively and to renew our commitment to take all necessary action on this matter, as a duty and service to mankind.

In its report for 1993 the International Narcotics Control Board describes the drug abuse and illicit trafficking situation as grim. Undoubtedly, our primary duty is to follow the Board's exhortation to ensure our efforts are continuous and balanced, and are carried out in an internationally concerted manner - and, may I add, in a nationally concerted manner - so that further positive results may be achieved. We owe this to our children, our youth and future generations.

It is to be recalled that the Political Declaration adopted at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly specifically affirms that the fundamental responsibility to take the necessary actions to combat the drug problem rests with each State. Moreover, the Global Programme of Action appeals to States to take the necessary follow-up measures to promote and implement the Programme and to translate it into practical action to the widest possible extent. At the same time, the struggle against drugs is recognized as a shared responsibility requiring action on a global scale through regional and international coordination and initiatives.

The setting up of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in 1990, with the exclusive responsibility to coordinate all United Nations drug control activities, promote the implementation of international conventions on the subject and provide effective leadership in international drug control, is a vivid example of putting one's beliefs into practice. The benefits of this measure are already being reaped; UNDCP is working in close coordination with United Nations specialized agencies, other international and non-governmental organizations and financial institutions, and is seeing to the execution of multiple projects. My Government believes that UNDCP is a dynamic institution, working with increased efficacy and strength, and that it should be regarded as the spearhead of international drug control activities. I join preceding speakers who had words of appreciation for the leadership and commitment that the Executive Director, Mr. Giacomelli, has brought to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Malta, a small, developing nation at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, an intercultural meeting place where North meets South and East meets West, has not been spared the ravages of drugs. With its limited financial and human resources, it is trying to control the problem at the national level, and to contribute at a regional and international level in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

In August 1988 two structures were set up - an Inter-Ministerial Committee to ensure the implementation of appropriate measures and a National Commission including experts from the governmental and non-governmental sectors - with the specific mandates of

formulating recommendations, maintaining international contacts and coordinating and developing all necessary services. The master-plan approach was adopted, with an analysis of the existing drug problems in the country, an assessment of existing drug control efforts and the identification of those activities needed for more effective control. Much has been achieved. But much more still needs to be done.

Mr. Marker (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

While there is a demand for drugs, there will always be a supply. Demand reduction is therefore one of the priorities, in order to eliminate the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Prevention and education, in whatever form, play a major role in this. Life skills and personal and social education programmes have been introduced in school curricula. Specific training courses have been offered to life skills teachers and guidance and counselling teachers, with the assistance of foreign experts. Other teachers have been awarded scholarships for the purpose of receiving the appropriate training abroad. The Chemical Abuse Awareness Unit within the Education Department and the Health Education Unit within the Health Department undertake programmes aimed at achieving proper behavioral roles. National anti-drug campaigns through the mass media are conducted by the National Commission which also publishes drug awareness and information literature directed at various strata of society. Our Commission is also developing a public information and resource centre on drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, while the Ministry for Youth and the Arts has set up an ongoing "Youth Against Drugs" campaign.

On the treatment side, we have two detoxification units, one in Malta and one on the sister island of Gozo. Round-the-clock services are available at the units and in community clinics. Drug abusers thus have access to the treatment they may require. A residential drug dependence unit for long-term detoxification has been established, with a separate hostel for female drug abusers who are undergoing the detoxification programme within the unit. Drug abusers seeking treatment are tested for hepatitis and HIV. Social workers and medical staff have received training abroad, and in-service training courses are provided for those working with drug abusers. A Working Committee set up at the beginning of this year to evaluate the treatment services in the fields of drug and alcohol abuse has completed its work, and its recommendations are being actively considered for implementation according to priority.

The Government firmly believes that non-governmental organizations can play a pivotal role in demand reduction activities and non-medical treatment or rehabilitation of drug abusers. Caritas (Malta) has for many years been at the forefront, carrying out its prevention work through seminars, lectures and training courses for parents, teachers and the community at large, and through its various publications. It also runs its own structures which provide non-medical rehabilitation programmes for drug abusers. More recently, the Independent Organization for Assistance and Solidarity (OASI), a non-governmental foundation, was set up to undertake prevention activities within the community of Gozo and to undertake rehabilitation programmes for drug abusers and alcoholics. The Government concretely supports such organizations.

The issue of law enforcement is a crucial aspect that also has to be given priority. Malta is not a producing country, but its strategic position, with a relatively long shoreline, with its yachting facilities, increasing air traffic, ever-expanding tourist industry and transshipment facilities can make it an ideal location for transit traffic. But Malta refuses to be a transit zone. Coordinated action between its law enforcement forces has already achieved modest successes. Specialized courses have been run by foreign experts for armed forces, customs and police personnel. The setting up of a Customs Anti-Drug Squad was followed by the formation of a sniffer dog section within the Squad. In-service courses on drug awareness, search and identification are being run by the Customs Department for all customs personnel. Police recruits at the Police Academy are being trained in, *inter alia*, search and investigation techniques, drug identification and legislation. All three forces have acquired or are in the process of acquiring equipment to enhance their effectiveness and functionality.

The creation of the National Drugs Intelligence Unit, presently in its infancy, for the purpose of intelligence gathering and dissemination, is intended to enhance the control of illicit traffic through cooperation and coordination between all three forces and with other national and international or regional units.

Recognition must be given to UNDCP for a technical and financial agreement which has made possible the implementation of a number of the measures I have outlined.

Malta is committed to international cooperation. It is a member of INTERPOL, the Customs Cooperation Council and the Pompidou Group. It participates in the

sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as well as in several international conferences and meetings. It has entered into bilateral agreements with other States with a view to consolidating reciprocal efforts in controlling drug abuse and trafficking. It will also be participating in the so-called Teledrug Operation, and the relevant treaty with the Government of Italy has been signed in this respect.

Malta is a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Although not yet a party to the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, it is our declared intention to become a party to it as soon as the appropriate legislation is in place, and we are already abiding by the reporting requirements under this Convention. At present a bill to amend our Dangerous Drugs Ordinance is before our Parliament, seeking to introduce in its provision on, *inter alia*, money-laundering offenses, pre-trial financial investigations and controlled delivery. We intend to present other proposed legislation for consideration.

Unscrupulously, drug traffickers take advantage of areas with political, social and economic problems. The corruption and violence associated with drug trafficking can destabilize a whole country or a whole region. It can be a threat to the security of any nation and of any region. For instance, events in Central and Eastern Europe and the flexibility with which drug traffickers can alter their routes should make us look upon drug trafficking as being a threat to the security of the Mediterranean region in the same way as it is a threat to other areas of the globe. This means that joint efforts should continue to be undertaken to strengthen the operational efficacy of national and international law enforcement bodies through provision of the requisite financial and technical resources.

Malta renews its pledge to support fully the concerted efforts being made by the United Nations to control the world drug problem. We commit ourselves to the Political Declaration adopted by this Assembly at its seventeenth special session. We endorse the recommendations presented before us today and associate ourselves with the principles enunciated in the Tehran Declaration as we too firmly believe in the

> "importance of human dignity and of human aspirations to a decent life based on moral, humanitarian and spiritual values in a healthy and safe environment". *(E/CN.7/1993/2, p. 9)*

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Alecos Shambos, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus.

Mr. SHAMBOS (Cyprus): Over the past two decades, the spread of illicit drugs has assumed unprecedented proportions. It has already reached every part of the globe. No nation has remained immune to the devastating effects of drug abuse. The magnitude of the problem was duly highlighted by the General Assembly at the special session in 1990. The relevant United Nations International Drug Control Programme has done much to enhance the overall structure and framework for drug-abuse control. The narcotic plague is, however, still with us, without any sign of subsiding.

We have gathered here today, specialists and policy makers together, to think of new ways of facing more resolutely the catastrophic manifestations of the evil of drugs in human society. Thus far, in the light of the universal commitment to eliminate the curse of drug abuse, the determined approach of the United Nations to control drug production and trafficking has drawn considerable support and cooperation all over the world. The declared war on drugs is indeed one of the ultimate priorities of the world community, and that war cannot be won without concerted international cooperation and action. To further this end, the present deliberations of the Assembly will hopefully add new determined efforts generating a greater impetus in the fight against drug abuse and new resoluteness in facing the challenges lying ahead.

Cyprus remains fully committed to the cause of combating the scourge of drugs through coordinated regional and international mechanisms which could yield effective action and results - the more so since my country is geographically situated in a region considered to be one of the major crossroads of heavy drug trafficking. I should emphasize, though, that, despite some indications that Cyprus is being used as a transit point for smuggling towards Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia, the country itself does not have a serious problem of local drug consumption or drug abuse, and there is not a considerable subculture of drug addicts, as there is in some other countries. This is illustrated by the fact that cases of hard drug use are rare, and that there has never been a drug-related death. The authorities, however, always on the alert, are concerned that the danger is now more apparent than ever before, and that widespread use of drugs may grow in the future. As a matter of fact, recent statistics show a steady increase in the use of hashish and marijuana in Cyprus. Almost all drugs consumed in my country are smuggled either from neighbouring countries or through the occupied part of Cyprus.

Believing, as we do, that the problem can be effectively tackled only by drastic action and decisive international cooperation, we participate in various United Nations bodies combating the spread of narcotic drugs. Moreover, we cooperate effectively with European organizations, such as the Council of Europe, especially the Pompidou Group. This participation is strengthened by our ratification of the international Conventions against drugs of 1961, 1971 and 1988, and by bilateral agreements on drug control that we have concluded with interested countries. Cyprus has also acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime.

On a national level, legislation has recently been promulgated, providing heavier penalties such as life imprisonment and confiscation of proceeds from the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Cyprus serves as host to full-time drug liaison officers and cooperates with INTERPOL and other agencies on international drug-trafficking cases. It is worth mentioning that 14 liaison officers from various countries are posted in Cyprus on a permanent basis. Through coordinated action, we have steadily been successful in effecting significant arrests and seizures both in Cyprus and in other countries.

A serious impediment, however, to the combating of crime by the police and enforcement agencies of the Republic of Cyprus is the fact that 37 per cent of our territory has been under occupation since 1974. This unacceptable situation creates ideal conditions for drug trafficking, as the illegally used ports and airports in the occupied areas are not under the supervision and control of the Government.

Recently, the specially trained narcotics squads of our police force have been reinforced and their technical equipment has been modernized. This, however, is not adequate, as advances in knowledge and technology cause rapid change. Consequently, the need arises for a constant exchange of information and intelligence, and we attach great importance to this exchange, as it enhances the drug-fighting process and enables Governments to achieve greater success in suppressing drug abuse.

Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation constitute a very significant component of our strategy in the fight against drugs. In this connection, although we are not yet experiencing a serious drug-abuse problem within our country, the prospect of this dire and fatal danger to our people - especially the youth - is foremost in our minds. This is why our newly reviewed national policy against drug abuse has a note of urgency and resolve. It involves coordination of the efforts of Government agencies and the private sector through a national committee for the prevention of drug abuse and trafficking. In the first stage, our efforts concentrated on the precise extent of and trends in the drug-abuse problem and the categories and characteristics of drug abusers and sources of supply. The experts supplemented these efforts with studies on the prevailing attitudes of various groups within the population *vis-à-vis* narcotic drugs.

Meanwhile, the Government is following a policy of introducing preventive programmes based on education and the dissemination of information. The main purpose of this policy is the training of such persons as teachers, parents and administrators on a nation-wide basis to sever as the focal points in increasing awareness on all levels and, above all, the utilization of the strong structure of the Cypriot family against the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The National Information Committee is the body responsible for offering advice and drug counselling. A special programme is now under review to reinforce the existing related services. Similarly, in the field of treating drug abusers, our target is to establish a special detoxification centre. Rehabilitation is the other leg of our policy. In our effort to reintegrate drug abusers into society and to provide a social infrastructure, we offer professional training to former drug addicts and encourage acceptance of them by the public.

Finally, I stress that resources are a very important element in our fight against drugs. Cyprus, like other small countries, has inadequate resources to combat effectively the trafficking in and distribution of drugs. We hope that, through an internationally regulated assistance project aimed at securing improved education, training and equipment, the fight against drugs will eventually emerge as a considerably more effective fight throughout the globe, for the benefit of the present and future generations of mankind.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

38th PLENARY MEETING
Tuesday, 26 October 1993 at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112 *(continued)*

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETINGS TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.12)

The PRESIDENT: The first speaker this afternoon is the representative of the Czech Republic, on whom I now call.

Mr. SLABÝ (Czech Republic): We are meeting at a unique moment in the complex history of the world, at a time when many decades-old East-West barriers have collapsed. At the same time, the world today is threatened by a global challenge to the stability of the international community as well as to the democratic institutions of individual countries. The illegal drugs trade is delivering narcotics to approximately 100 million drug-addicted persons. From 1970 to 1985, Western European countries experienced a real narcotics boom, with all the attendant health and social consequences. The drug problem has grown into an epidemic of a kind never experienced by Europe before.

In the former communist and today's post-communist States of Central and Eastern Europe, developments have been less dramatic. Still, the problem existed, and it grew significantly during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. But thanks to the strong system of social control, the limited possibilities for foreign travel and the lack of freely-disposable foreign currencies, neither demand nor supply reached the magnitude experienced in Western democracies. Communist regimes used to be consistent in making the problem of drugs a taboo; in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe there was therefore little social awareness of the drug problem as such or of ways to cope with it.

Developments on the drug scene since 1990 in the former Czechoslovakia and subsequently in the Czech Republic have completely changed my country's internal situation in this respect. The opening up of borders, the liberalization of society, changes in values, and the transition of the country's economy have all resulted in a sharp increase in both the supply of and demand for drugs, in the creation of a market for classic hard drugs, and indeed in the emergence of international organized crime. In 1991 there were 6,590 registered addicts in the Czech Republic; yet the so-called grey zone, the number of addicted but not registered persons, is estimated to have been 10 times that figure. Lower age groups, including schoolchildren, are now being threatened. The situation in my country has been described as "a heroin epidemic at the gate".

This new situation has led us to identify the abuse and illegal use of drugs as a grave domestic social problem, and has challenged appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations to deal with it.

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ENGLISH

At the end of 1991 the Government created an anti-drug agency with decentralized regional offices, and in 1992 a national drug-information service. The Government emphasizes that the drug menace cannot be solved by isolated efforts, but only by the use of systematic and combined measures in the fields of criminal prevention, employment policy, education, health and social care, protection of public health and other spheres. Shortly after the division of Czechoslovakia, on 1 January 1993, the Government of the Czech Republic established an interministerial anti-drug commission headed by the Minister of the Interior.

However, international cooperation in the field of drugs is essential for us as well. It constitutes an inseparable part of the integration of the Czech Republic into European structures and into the world community. In this respect let me stress how highly we appreciate the level of cooperation with the specialized bodies of the United Nations, with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the European Communities, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international bodies, and the assistance they are providing to the Czech Republic. One example is the agreement recently concluded between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Czech Republic relating to a programme of assistance in the context of the "Balkan route". The programme aims to strengthen operational enforcement results in reducing the flow of illicit narcotics passing into and through the territory of the Czech Republic.

The decision to hold four high-level plenary meetings at the present session to urgently examine the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances reflects the growing recognition by the international community that our common objectives will be achieved only through the pooling of our efforts. As many speakers have already noted, the United Nations is adapting to an environment in which it has to handle many new and complex problems facing the international community, including drug abuse. The contours of a more efficient struggle against drug abuse are taking more specific forms. More and more States have acceded to international narcotics-control treaties.

The establishment of the UNDCP, an integrated and specialized United Nations body to combat narcotic drugs, was the result of the international community's recognition of the need for global efforts. We appreciate the UNDCP's crucial role in international drug-control activities. We have noted with satisfaction encouraging signs of progress in cooperation between the UNDCP on the one hand and other international organizations, in particular international development and financial institutions, on the other. We also regard the Global Programme of Action as extremely beneficial for national anti-drug programmes, since it has provided comprehensive guidelines for combating drug abuse and for coordinating anti-drug policies.

The Czech Parliament is in the process of formulating an overall anti-drug policy on the basis of a proposal by the Government. In accordance with the Global Programme of Action and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, we are preparing an action-oriented anti-drug plan under which we envisage taking all possible measures to implement the recommendations of those two documents. My Government's basic aim is to create a social, political and economic climate that would minimize the destructive influence of drugs. It would include protecting the citizen against drugs and support his individual decision to live a drug-free life, while fully respecting his civil rights. Not even so-called soft drugs will be legalized in my country.

To this end the Government has already taken all necessary measures to decrease the drug supply. The Czech Republic has begun preventive actions at the national level and is involved in training health personnel. The Government has also declared its commitment to establish a sound legal and social system. Relevant legislation continues to be amended and other legislative changes are being prepared in order fully to implement international drug control conventions. Steps have been taken to monitor and stop the illegal production of psychotropic substances. Many aspects of this national anti-drug programme are still under discussion, including the replacement of the above-mentioned interministerial commission by a new governmental agency.

My country has concluded bilateral agreements with several countries on combating drug-related crime, in particular drug trafficking, and has participated in European meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA). The effort to keep the country safe from drugs requires adequate resources. We therefore highly appreciate the invaluable international assistance that has been made available in providing expertise and equipment both bilaterally and multilaterally.

In conclusion, let me assure the Assembly that the Czech Republic shares the belief that to succeed in the war against drugs the international community has to continue its concerted efforts to combat all aspects of the drug menace. The Czech Republic will be a part of it.

The PRESIDENT: I am now pleased to call on Mr. Michael Ausserwinkler, Minister for Health of Austria.

Mr. AUSSERWINKLER (Austria): The preamble to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the preamble to the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 both refer to the ambivalent properties of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Administered in accordance with the state of medical art they are indispensable, but if they are abused they can lead to enormous human suffering, loss of social status and disastrous economic consequences. As a physician and a government Minister of Health I am confronted daily with this ambivalent situation of licit and illicit use and - like all representatives - I am well aware of the urgent need for balanced global action in coordination with the United Nations. I therefore consider it extremely important for us in this framework of high-level plenary meetings to define our position on the world-wide drug problem, decide on our further approach and agree on further measures to be taken. The adoption of the draft resolution before us reflects a broad consensus on the next steps to be taken.

How to make use of the positive properties of some drugs - the fact that often they help to stop intolerable pain and, if applied *lege artis*, at the right time and in the right dosage, lead to negligible addiction problems - is a subject to which the World Health Organization (WHO) has been devoting itself for some time with a great sense of responsibility. In accordance with the recommendations of WHO, we in Austria are planning to invest a great deal in this area and we hope that the appeals from WHO will be listened to throughout the world.

The other, negative side of the coin has been familiar to all of us for many years from the numerous examples of and experiences with drug addicts, dealers, criminals and launderers of drug money. As the International Narcotics Control Board points out in its 1992 annual report, the numerous efforts made at the national and the international level have, unfortunately, not succeeded so far in checking the world-wide abuse of, and illegal trafficking in drugs, with their associated violence and corruption. This is still true despite three United Nations Conventions on drugs - the Single Convention of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

What I consider to be essential is that drug problems can often be solved at their roots, that is to say, long before they come to light, by educational, family, employment, housing and social politics.

These facts are familiar to all of us and have been incorporated into the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna in 1987, and into the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. The call to ensure living conditions which prevent the abuse of drugs is also part of the Global Programme of Action of 1990 and the final declaration of the World Ministerial Summit held in London in the same year.

The question then arises: What are we doing to put these ideas into practice? With reference to the objectives of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, I should like to report briefly on the current situation in Austria.

Since 1980 Austria has had a statutory system for collecting data on drug abusers. As those data clearly show, the situation in the area of illegal drugs was stationary in the 1980s and moderate in comparison with other European countries. It is only since 1991 that we have seen a marked rise, especially in the use of heroin by young people.

The recent alarming increase in heroin consumption by teenagers has prompted the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to issue a teaching programme on drug prevention for all schools. The programme requires that attention be paid to these problems in the teaching of all school subjects and it focuses on the discussion of habits and lifestyles which promote or reduce the individual's well-being. These materials do not concentrate primarily on drugs as such but concentrate on the question of a person's needs and how one can cope with difficult situations without taking drugs.

Currently, the Ministry of Education, with support from my Ministry, is working on a curriculum for basic and advanced training for teachers in drug prevention. In addition to specific technical expertise in drug problems, teachers are to be given advice on how to exert pedagogic influence. The Ministry of Education has also commissioned a research project to assess the efficiency, in terms of drug prevention, of various methods of organizing classroom work.

The confusion created among young people who are led to believe that illegal drugs cannot be so dangerous if public opinion considers making them more easily accessible, is very dangerous.

While there are different views as to what themes drug prevention in education should stress, there is very broad consensus that drug addicts are sick persons who are primarily in need of treatment. Since 1980 the Austrian Drugs Act has given every addict the choice of undergoing treatment instead of a criminal sentence, provided, of course, that he has not committed a serious crime. Under this law, a number of in-patient and out-patient centres were created in the early 1980s, which provide assistance to more than 5,000 persons every year and in addition give advice to a still far larger number - family members, students, teachers, and so on. Treatment and advice are free as the centres are funded entirely or in part by public authorities.

With the increasing menace of AIDS and in view of the fact that not all opiate addicts are able to go through with abstinence-oriented treatment, even with the best intentions, Austria made arrangements, in the late 1980s, for heroin addicts to undergo substitution treatment. So far, about 2,500 patients have been treated under this programme. In this context I should like to mention the manuals concerning the detection and assay of heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and other drugs in biological specimens recently issued by the Laboratory of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in Vienna, and I am pleased to see that Austria's support of this exercise has led to some benefits for developed countries although it was originally intended primarily for developing countries.

I should like to take this opportunity to stress that we are very pleased to be the host country for UNDCP, with its various technical branches and units, with which many countries have developed a wide range of fruitful and practical cooperation. Bearing in mind the importance that Austria attaches to the activities of the Programme, we have been increasing substantially our financial contribution to its work. In this context, I should like also to express our appreciation to the UNDCP's Director-General, Mr. Giacomelli, and his staff for their work in implementing the Programme.

Returning to the substitution programme, I should like to stress that we have had favourable experience with regard to HIV prevention - there are hardly any new cases of infection in this group - and the improved general medical and social status of the patients involved. One problem remains unsolved, however. I refer to the fact that many HIV-infected persons have little chance of social reintegration, and, given their AIDS problems, they tend to fail to develop their own future perspectives.

Rehabilitation must include occupational reintegration. For many institutions that assist drug addicts, it has become standard procedure to take appropriate action in this respect - by organizing training or retraining and by helping patients to find jobs. The employment service supports these activities by providing financial aid to individuals and by funding projects for a certain time. However, with the deterioration in the labour-market situation and the rise in unemployment, it is becoming more and more difficult to find work for cured drug addicts. Such people who cannot find work receive monthly social-assistance payments, which help to meet their basic needs and include health insurance.

The drug problem is a multidisciplinary question. It relates not only to public security, the fight against crime and crime prevention, but also to issues of health, social, youth and family policy. The Austrian Federal Government is therefore promoting a coordinated approach to the causes of and the background to drug abuse and drug addiction.

Social policies, such as those relating to the fight against youth unemployment; family policies, particularly financial support for families with children; and education policies, such as the policy of free access to pre-university secondary schools and to higher education - these are regarded as being just as essential to drug prevention as are measures aimed at direct control of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Today, there is broad agreement that the drug problem is not one just of supply, in the same way as it is not one just of demand. The drug problem reflects also the unsolved social conflicts and contradictions that exist in Austria, as everywhere else in the world.

Although I, as a doctor, naturally consider the preventive approach and the treatment and reintegration of drug patients as a priority concern in drug policy, I am convinced that we cannot do without repressive action in some areas. But I also know how difficult it is to fight organized drug crime and to take on powerful gangs, bearing in mind all the resources at their disposal.

Of course, I also realize that a balanced drug policy can be successful only if is supported on a global scale. Austria is not shirking its duty. We intend, in the very near future, to issue appropriate regulations on Annexes III and IV, which, so far, have not been implemented as required by the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and, thereby, to pave the way for our formal accession to this Convention. Another essential step that

is envisaged is the full implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of 1988.

But international acts of solidarity are also needed urgently in respect of those activities that I have already said attack the deep roots of the drug problem. I refer to measures in the sphere of education, family, employment, housing and social policy. Hence, all organizations of the United Nations family have a role to play in this field, to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of planet Earth. That is why these organizations need our special support.

The PRESIDENT: I now call Mr. Mauri Pekkarinen, Minister for Internal Affairs of Finland.

Mr. PEKKARINEN (Finland): The illicit production, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs constitute an increasingly difficult problem throughout the world. The well-being and safety of large population groups, as well as the implementation of their economic, social and other human rights, are threatened by the drug problem worldwide.

The drug issue has such global dimensions that there is a clear need to intensify international co-operation. This ought to be done by involving all relevant authorities and international organizations representing the education, social-welfare, public-health, environment and law-enforcement sectors. The United Nations plays an important role in this work. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has made commendable efforts to coordinate the international struggle against drugs.

Efforts have been made, through international agreements, to strengthen measures to prevent the production, sale, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs. It is important that all States ratify all the United Nations drug Conventions without delay.

There is wide agreement in the international community that the drug problem cannot be prevented merely by efforts to restrict the supply of drugs. Accordingly, in recent years, the question of demand reduction has been given increasing attention. We welcome the activities of the UNDCP in this matter. We would give favourable consideration to the inclusion in international narcotics policies and legally binding agreements of any measure aimed at reducing drug demand.

Combating drugs requires a comprehensive prevention strategy, at both the international and the national levels. The Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control provide a comprehensive framework for drug-control activities. These programmes ought to be implemented in a systematic way. Information and education concerning the dangers of drugs - whether to health or to social aspects of life - together with appropriate control systems, are essential elements of the fight against drugs. Preventive action can be successful only if it is a part of an integrated programme that takes account of all aspects of the problem and its underlying causes.

The fight against drugs will be effective only if we are able to resolve the structural, social and economic factors that result in the continued supply of and demand for drugs. Drug problems are linked to various criminal activities. The growth of drug-related violent crime is alarming. The organized drug brokers are running a large-scale business. Profits obtained through illegal deals are laundered by being invested in legal business activities.

In order to keep organized drug-related crime in check, strict control and legislative measures are necessary. In addition, means are needed to tackle the structures of the narcotics trade in order to deprive this criminal business of its very foundation.

The problems related to drugs are global, cross-sectoral and ever-changing. As far as Europe is concerned, new problems seem to be arising with the changing scene. We must support the newly independent Central and Eastern European countries in their fight against drugs. We must prevent, in time, the narcotics problem from expanding. Simultaneously, we have to build a system to prevent the new flow of drugs from east to west and from west to east. To accomplish this we need cooperation across boundaries at the regional and international levels. This is, of course, true with regard to other regions as well.

It is important that issues related to narcotic drugs be discussed at the highest international level with the aim of promoting peaceful, non-discriminatory and sustainable development. In view of the global nature of the drug problem and the many issues relating to it, cooperation and good coordination are extremely important. In this respect, I would welcome an examination by the Economic and Social Council next year of the status of international cooperation within the United Nations system.

The PRESIDENT *(interpretation from Spanish)*: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Jorge Carpizo, Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico.

Mr. CARPIZO (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: We come to this forum of the international community in the hope that our deliberations concerning the drug phenomenon will contribute effectively to bringing peace to mankind, thanks to nations' renewed expression of their will to cooperate in the responsible and shared task of eradicating the drug trafficking and drug addiction that threaten their safety and international coexistence. The danger of drug trafficking can be summed up by saying that it is systematically destroying things of great value that have taken mankind centuries to build, such as health, freedom and justice.

Imbued with that spirit of cooperation, we have come to ratify on behalf of Mexico the decision to redouble the efforts, in the framework of international solidarity fostered by the United Nations, to fight vigorously against the crimes that derive from the various modalities of drug trafficking, to encourage actions by societies and Governments designed to reduce consumption and rates of addiction, to support preventive-education, care and treatment programmes and to stimulate scientific research and reflection in this field.

Nowadays, the most effective lesson that nations are being taught is that drugs spread when there is indecision, disorganization and lack of coordination and cooperation between Governments. In order to stand up against such negative conditions it is imperative constantly to update our knowledge of this changing phenomenon and anticipate its trends. It is urgent, in the short term, to stop its spread and, in the long term, to eradicate it through reason and law.

Mexico participates actively in international efforts being made in this respect, and within our borders we are strengthening more and more our organizational structures and programmes aimed at drug control, with strict observance of legality and based on humanitarian principles of human protection and on the juridical, organic and functional solidity of national institutions.

The Mexican State sees mankind as the reason for and inspiration of its fundamental political decisions; that is precisely why it bases its policy on drugs on the firm principle of human dignity.

In developing its public policies, the Mexican State determines its actions concerning drugs on the basis of the following principles: First, there is the principle of comprehensiveness, which consists of approaching the drug phenomenon as a whole and dealing with its basic causes and its infinite interconnections with other phenomena. Secondly, there is the principle of globality, because the problem affects all nations; therefore, in order to bring it under control, it must be approached multilaterally on the basis of shared responsibility, within a framework of full respect and cooperation, so that actions taken respond to hemispheric, regional, binational and local needs. Thirdly, there is the principle of prevention, intended, through education, to encourage critical thinking based on values capable of fostering an attitude of rejection of drugs - an attitude strengthened by the combined efforts of society and the educational and health sectors of government, and its scope of action is expanded through community mobilization programmes for drug-addiction prevention and care and rehabilitation for those who have suffered from addiction. Fourthly, there is the principle of the quality of the legal, institutional and operational instruments aimed at stopping crime in all its stages, uncovering any violation of human rights in the pursuit of criminals and providing treatment and social rehabilitation for criminals. And, fifthly, there is the principle of the active participation of society, both in the fight against drugs and in preventive programmes, and in the rejection of the drug culture and of coexistence with drugs, as well as in information strategies.

In the field of juridical-penal efforts, Mexico has achieved the following results in the last five years: More than 2,300 tons of marijuana, more than 210 tons of cocaine and almost 2 tons of heroin and opium gum have been seized. At the same time, more than 60,000 hectares of marijuana and almost 50 thousand hectares of poppies have been eradicated. We have also succeeded in dismantling more than a dozen top-level criminal organizations linked to drug trafficking and arresting 16 of their ringleaders; this has had an impact at the continental level.

Four months ago the President of Mexico created the National Institute for the Fight against Drugs, whose mission is to give this problem specialized attention. The Institute is provided with the most advanced technology to face up to this scourge.

Mexico has come before the most representative body of the international community to stress the need to consider again together, in a calm manner, the situation in which we find ourselves and to redefine our actions in the drug-control field. Only through immediate action can we achieve medium-term or long-term solutions.

In an effort to promote international action in this area, the purpose of the Mexican Government's proposal that these special meetings be held, we should like to advance some concepts and priorities that, in our opinion,

might be regarded as a basis for this exercise in international reflection.

The first is reducing demand. Since it is drug consumption that generates production and causes drug trafficking, reducing demand is the basic, albeit long-term, solution. The most effective way to reduce production and trafficking in drugs is gradually to reduce the number of consumers. In designing new international strategies we should consider developing integrated prevention programmes. Communities must be mobilized to discourage the use of substances, especially the most addictive substances, through teaching in the schools and in community education programmes, and to provide treatment based on timely identification of the problem and on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the addict.

The second concept concerns the efficacy of international efforts to eradicate illicit cultivation. Although drugs are cultivated in many countries, whatever their degree of development, such cultivation is often concentrated in the least developed countries, where an alternative to the cultivation of illicit crops might be created through improving the living standards of those who, out of poverty, produce and trade in drugs. Such an improvement could be achieved through rural development programmes based on international cooperation for development and on the principle of shared responsibility.

This is the traditional approach. In addition, we must recognize that the so-called consumer countries are producers of drugs, illegal chemical substances and large quantities of marijuana. There should be better administrative control, and sanctions against producers and suppliers should be rigorously applied.

Thirdly, we require the harmonization of national legislation. Because the legal framework to curb drug trafficking and related crimes is inadequate, we must harmonize national laws, in keeping with each country's domestic legislation, and make them compatible with existing international instruments.

Similarly, it is essential to create new legal systems that are compatible at the international level and able to control the vast resources that drug traffickers possess, while recognizing that the huge profits play a central role in the success and spread of drug trafficking. Therefore, both the market and the large flow of funds must be eliminated as a matter of urgency. The legal systems must be able to combat the financial machinery, tax evasion and money laundering; confiscate the property of drug traffickers; eradicate the networks used for the acquisition of weapons and explosives; prevent the transport of chemical precursors to clandestine laboratories; and, lastly, control the production, transportation and distribution of drugs.

Fourthly, there is the fight against organized crime. The globalization of life in all its commercial, cultural, communication, transportation, economic and financial forms, as well as in many other aspects, has also made possible a more effective organization of criminal activities. We must therefore review and update national and international legal instruments dealing with health, penal, penal-fiscal, financial and banking matters; encourage bilateral adherence to agreements on mutual legal assistance, extradition, sentencing and money laundering; ensure the existence of adequate structures and systems of justice; and strengthen strategic information-exchange mechanisms so as to deal more effectively with transnational criminal networks.

Fifthly, new financing machinery is required to improve international cooperation. One of the obstacles to better methods of tackling the drug phenomenon is the lack of financial resources, both for the implementation of plans agreed within multilateral organizations and for national prevention and treatment and programmes to intercept drugs in transit and support rural programmes to discourage illegal cultivation. This lack of financial resources contrasts with the vast amount of capital readily available to international drug criminals, its easy transfer from one country to another and its almost complete freedom of use. If these contradictions are not resolved, it is highly unlikely that United Nations, regional and national programmes can be effective.

Multilateral credit institutions should, at the behest of the General Assembly, support existing procedures under the auspices of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to revitalize priority national programmes. It is also appropriate to make a firm but friendly appeal to the most advanced countries to increase their commitment to contribute to these goals through the Programme.

The scourge of drug trafficking must be fought with determination, appropriate strategies, the law, preventive programmes and rehabilitation programmes, better organization, technical training and perseverance. Above all, we need international cooperation. One country alone cannot overcome this great disaster. In this field, as in few others, cooperation, coordination and international solidarity, with full respect for the sovereignty of States, are indispensable.

The PRESIDENT: Before calling upon the next speaker, I should like to make some announcements.

First, I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation of delegations in limiting their statements to 10 minutes, in accordance with the Assembly's decision in this respect. As members know, there is still a very large number of speakers inscribed on the list for both today and tomorrow, and only with the continued support and cooperation of members can we ensure the smooth discussion of this subject matter in the time allotted.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to make an announcement in connection with an addition to our programme of work.

On Monday, 15 November, in the afternoon, the General Assembly will consider agenda item 32, "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States". The list of speakers for this item is now open.

AGENDA ITEM 112 ***(continued)***

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETINGS TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALES, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.12)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): I should first like to convey both to you, Mr. President, and to this Assembly, the very sincere regrets of Mr. Mark Lennon-Boyd, the Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for international drugs questions. He had fully intended to be here today and was much looking forward to the occasion. Unfortunately, because of a last-minute illness, he had to cancel his travels and has instead asked me to make the speech that he would have made had he been here.

At the special session of February 1990, the British Foreign Secretary described the horrendous reality of the drugs trade: the pain, misery and squalor of the addicts, the debasement of the community, the associated violence and criminality. He summed it up as the slave trade writ large. I cannot say that very much has changed.

After that meeting three years ago, the World Summit in London endorsed a reorganization of those parts of the United Nations system concerned with drugs and the adoption of a Global Programme of Action. Other international initiatives have followed. At the instigation of the leaders of the Group of 7, measures have been agreed and implemented in a number of countries to combat money-laundering and the illicit trading of precursor chemicals. Meetings of donor countries have done much to develop coordination of bilateral assistance. The Council of Europe's Pompidou Group has taken forward cooperation between the two halves of the continent. I am glad to say that the United Kingdom has been actively involved in all these initiatives.

The Minister of Justice of Belgium has set out the great strides taken internally by the European Community and its member States, but perhaps I can say a few words about that too. The Maastricht Treaty provides something brand-new: an intergovernmental pillar to deal with interior and justice matters, and another on the foreign and security policy side which operates by means of voluntary cooperation between Community member States to stand alongside the established European Community way of doing business, in which the European Commission proposes measures and the Council of Ministers decides on them. The interior and justice pillar deals with a whole range of matters, and not just drugs. But drug trafficking is one of the areas covered by this intergovernmental pillar, which is of most concern to our citizens. European Community member States, working freely together in the framework provided by this new arrangement, will cooperate, through the European Police Agency - EUROPOL - and other means to combat this scourge.

On the bilateral level, we have also sought to give practical effect to this multilateral work: we have negotiated asset seizure agreements, established operational cooperation with a wide range of countries, developed programmes of training and assistance in law enforcement, and provided expert advice on demand reduction.

Regrettably, however, the result of all these efforts has been disappointing. At a global level, the production of cocaine may have levelled off, but there are signs that even this modest achievement may not last. In the case of heroin, we cannot even claim a levelling off, as a continuing increase in supply feeds a corresponding growth in demand. One particularly pernicious aspect of this

inexorable rise in demand is a mushrooming addiction in countries where drugs are produced and through which they pass.

This somewhat bleak picture is moreover replicated in our own experience at the regional and national levels. For example, there is evidence of a significant increase in the import of cocaine into Europe, as demand elsewhere has been met. In my own country, there is a particular concern about the spread, particularly in urban areas, of the cocaine derivative known as crack.

There are wider political developments which have perversely added to the world's drug problems. The end of the cold war and the consequent liberalization of the societies and economies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are of course thoroughly welcome. But as old structures of law enforcement have come down before new ones have been fully established, a vacuum has been created in which drug trafficking, and indeed production, has flourished. The result has been a further diversification of an already highly diversified trade. A similar vacuum exists and is growing in parts of South-West Asia.

But the political sea change of the 1990s is not the whole story. Elsewhere too the commitment called for from the international community in 1990 has not emerged. Little progress has been made against the uncontrolled production of heroin that we have seen for many years in parts of South-East Asia. Nearly five years after its adoption, barely a half of the Member States are parties to the 1988 United Nations Convention on narcotic drugs, and some of those still lack the domestic legislation needed to fulfil its substantial obligations. Nor has nearly enough use been made of the potential of the United Nations system to tackle the drugs threat. We must all pay more than lip service to the System-Wide Action Plan. The position is the same with the Global Programme of Action. It will have meaning only if all countries play their part. It was particularly discouraging, therefore, that only 28 countries responded to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme's (UNDCP) questionnaire on implementation. As a consequence, the key document before this session, the Secretary-General's report (A/48/329), reflects the views and experiences of less than one-sixth of the membership.

This all adds up to a situation that is no less stark than it was three years ago. I have heard it said in recent weeks that we need to revamp the United Nations drug-control machinery again and create new mechanisms. I do not agree. We have the machinery; we need now to make it work better. In particular, we need a more solid international front in support of the 1988 United Nations Convention. This is an instrument with teeth, and we need to make it bite. The other half of the membership must sign up.

We also need a fuller realization of the role we have assigned to UNDCP as the focal point of international action against drugs. Although a new programme, it has shown what it can do. It deserves the fullest cooperation wherever it is engaged in front-line efforts against drugs. We should invest in development of UNDCP rather than in new initiatives. We should make sure that it has the autonomy it needs. It deserves full support more generally from institutions within and outside the United Nations system.

Within that system, and from the international financial bodies, we need a more substantial engagement of other agencies that can help. Much development activity takes place against a background of drugs production or drugs trafficking. Greater account needs to be taken of that dimension. This is as much in the interests of economic and social progress as for any narrower reason.

Elsewhere, we need to make a conscious effort to make full use of the potential of the other mechanisms. In doing so we should bear in mind the consensus reached earlier that the international effort must be properly balanced: balanced between producer, transit and consumer countries, and balanced between supply reduction, law enforcement and demand reduction. Neglect of any one of these components will erode to a disproportionate extent the overall effectiveness of the strategy to which we have committed ourselves and which these meetings will, we hope, re-endorse.

But, although international mechanisms can help, the primary responsibility for action remains with national Governments and parliaments. It is only they who can initiate action to break up drug-trafficking networks, eliminate drug production and reduce drug addiction. To do this requires courage and commitment at the highest political level, reflected down through the layers of government and administration. In practical terms, this means strengthening the law of the land to cover, for example, asset seizure, criminalization of money-laundering, and precursor-chemical control, and then enforcing the law in some cases in the face of infiltration by criminal networks into the heart of democratic institutions. If we do not have the determination to take on the powerful interests behind the drugs trade, they will

entrench their positions in our societies, to the cost of us all.

The priority of this issue cannot be in doubt. The way we tackle it has implications for future generations. The political circumstances of the 1990s give us an unprecedented opportunity to make cooperation between nations and across regions work and to create the wider united front to which I have referred. But the precondition for international success is will and effort at the national level. We owe it to each other to do what is necessary both in the global arena and at home.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Edward Lintner, National Commissioner for Narcotic Drugs and Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany.

Mr. LINTNER (Germany) *(spoke in German; English text furnished by the delegation)*: In my capacity as the German Government's Commissioner for Drug Control, I am gratified that the United Nations, by means of these four plenary meetings of the General Assembly attended by high-ranking participants, again professes its determination to proscribe drug abuse before the world's public. This is the objective we have to pursue jointly.

The Belgian Minister for Justice and Economic Affairs, Mr. Melchior Wathelet, this morning presented major aspects of the international fight against drugs, as the joint position of the European Community and its member States. Please allow me to deal with some additional issues from the viewpoint of my country.

The scope of drug-related crime has markedly increased in Germany over the past few years. In 1992 alone the German enforcement authorities seized 5.9 tons of hard drugs and more than 12 tons of cannabis products. In spite of this significant success, it is most deplorable that, as in the previous year, we had to register in 1992 more than 2,000 deaths from drug abuse. This year, there has been a 20 per cent decrease in drug-related deaths so far. However, one cannot speak of a downward trend, for there are too many factors that might influence this development. It is true that the number of first-time users of hard drugs is declining as well - above all with regard to heroin. But there is an alarming increase in first-time cocaine and amphetamine users, a development we observe with great concern.

Over the past 12 months, Germany has taken major steps designed to optimize the fight against this scourge of humanity. In addition to other legislative measures taken, money laundering was declared a punishable offence in September 1992. A Money Laundering Act was adopted last month, providing the prosecuting authorities with an essential instrument for successfully countering money laundering. The Act on the Control of Precursor Substances in the field of chemicals is about to be submitted to Parliament.

However, the emphasis of our anti-drug policy is not only on repression. We consider it our most fundamental task to convince people, especially the young, that it is better to lead a life without drugs and drug addiction in free self-determination. To this end, we have to start at an early age and appeal to those who are potentially at risk. One of our new concepts, which aims at reducing the death rate, is reaching out to drug addicts with no strings attached. A pilot programme, started in 1990, seeks to address drug addicts by means other than formal counselling and therapy, without asking them to meet any prerequisites or make advance concessions. The programme is designed to provide assistance in everyday life and end the calamitous cycle of addiction and impoverishment.

For the time being, more than 4,000 specialized places are available in long-term therapy centres. The development and extension of existing in-patient facilities for detoxification and therapy, as well as the creation of new ones, will be carried on in the future. Finally, we are continuing with other proven programmes for counselling, treatment and follow-up care, such as assistance in rehabilitation and social and vocational integration.

In the field of demand reduction, campaigns in the mass media as well as prevention activities in areas with drug problems have been successful. In particular, our drug prevention programmes at schools often entail local follow-up activities. However, it is indispensable for sustained success in reducing the demand for drugs that drug prevention is seen as a challenge to the entire society. This is why I am at present seeking to establish an association funded and run by industrial sponsors and committed social groups which will implement various and, above all, long-term action for anti-drug education programmes.

As regards measures to reduce the cultivation of narcotic drug plants - another essential element of our anti-drug policy - we primarily rely on the multifaceted instrument of development aid, which is designed to provide alternatives for earning a living other than by cultivating plants for the production of drugs. We are all well aware that a multitude of difficulties have to be

overcome before an acceptable and income-producing market will have been created for appropriate licit produce.

The formerly popular concept of crop substitution is no longer viable; it can no longer be our objective simply to substitute licit plants for illicit crops. Instead, the aim should also be to improve the social environment by means of development policy approaches, in order to reduce the acceptance of the cultivation of illicit crops.

As holds true in the field of drug problems in general, the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs is an international task which can only be coped with through the joint responsibility of all States. The United Nations Conventions on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control constitute a sound and comprehensive basis for drug control activities. What is needed now is a consistent implementation of these measures.

In this context let me underline the central importance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Under the management of Executive Director Giacomelli, UNDCP has made encouraging progress in the various fields of international drug control. I wish to point out two focal areas to which Germany, now as before, attaches special importance: UNDCP's national master plan concept, which has been revitalized and further developed, and technical assistance for States in the field of legislation, which has been intensified. In this field particularly, the States of Central and Eastern Europe and of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have special needs. These countries have to establish effective anti-drug legislation and enforcement authorities. This is of very special concern to us, and we would appreciate it if more States would join in and actively engage in providing assistance to this region.

We can also thank UNDCP for essential progress in sharpening the awareness that demand reduction cannot be the responsibility of the respective Governments alone but must be seen as a task to be tackled by the whole society. This means that non-governmental organizations must be increasingly involved at the national and international levels, and the same applies to other United Nations agencies in this field, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The German Government will continue to support UNDCP's important coordination function.

The German Government will complete the ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances within the next few days by depositing the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Against this background, I should like to underline that I consider it extremely important that all countries, irrespective of how they are affected by the drug problem, should also ratify this Convention.

However, appeals alone are no longer sufficient. The fight against drugs must not be fought in an overly administrative and bureaucratic manner. It is not enough to set up just another subcommittee, to keep on preparing analyses the results of which have long been known, to identify ever new ifs and buts - because the outcome of all that will be that drug control will continue to be dealt with inadequately.

The determination to combat drugs in the producer and transit countries as well as in the consumer countries must be maintained and developed. We do not want simply to stick to our repressive tools for combating illicit drugs; we are also determined to apply them in practice. Germany will therefore continue to treat dealing in illicit soft and hard drugs as a punishable criminal offence. Furthermore, our capacity to interrupt effectively the influx and trafficking routes of narcotic drugs must not be kept at the present level, but must be enhanced.

I believe that we do have a chance of reducing the drug problem. However, this will require that we attack the problem with even greater determination. To this end we must cooperate and mobilize all national and international efforts. Everybody is invited to join in.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Vitor Feytor Pinto, High Commissioner for "Project Life" - National Plan for Drug Control.

Mr. FEYTOR PINTO (Portugal) (*interpretation from French*): It is a great honour for me to represent my country as High Commissioner for "Project Life" - National Plan for Drug Control - and to address the Assembly to report on the role played by Portugal in all United Nations efforts to combat illicit trafficking in and abusive consumption of drugs.

In a society dominated by success, money and power, it is urgent to instill the values of solidarity, sharing and service, not only to combat the exploitation of the human being caused by drug trafficking but also to free all those

who have fallen victim to it and who wish, often in vain, to be able to live a life worthy of the human person.

Indeed, with regard to the drug problem, the ineffectiveness of the system of control and surveillance that has been established is giving rise to great concern on the part of the international community - hence this opportunity to evaluate results and to introduce possible adjustments into intervention strategies, so as not to dash the hopes raised at the time of its adoption by consensus in 1990.

In this regard, I am very pleased to convey Portugal's gratitude for the growing effort in this field on the part of the United Nations and the General Assembly, and to express the wholehearted support of my country for this undertaking.

This leading role - a necessity, given the complexity of the phenomenon and its truly world-wide dimensions, and a major factor in providing the cooperation required at the world and regional levels - will thus guarantee the effectiveness of measures to be adopted and encourage action by all local and national leaders who share responsibility in the vital struggle to overcome the drug problem.

With greater determination and courage the Assembly is today tackling the delicate but decisive task of evaluating the results of earlier initiatives, particularly the adoption of the Global Programme of Action and other elements in the Political Declaration approved at the seventeenth special session in 1990.

We wish here to congratulate the Secretary-General on his important report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by various Member States and to express our support for the recommendations contained therein.

We recognize that the drug situation throughout the world has continued to deteriorate; and we believe that it is our duty to express our admiration for and solidarity with those States that have with such determination taken bold measures in the areas of prevention and the treatment of addicts and with regard to illicit trafficking, as well as within the system of control and curbing supply.

Regionally and domestically, Portugal has striven to apply the measures in the Global Programme of Action, and we are now attempting to evaluate the extent of implementation.

Within the framework of the European Community, of which it is a member, Portugal has contributed to the elaboration of concerted strategy in the European Programme for Drug Control, which, by giving pride of place to reducing demand, is advocating the strengthening of police and customs structures, providing for cooperation and support instruments at the international level, particularly with the producer countries, and taking legislative measures to prevent the laundering of proceeds from illicit trafficking.

Inasmuch as the statement of the Belgian Minister of Justice made on behalf of the European Community has reported on the Community's achievements and strategies, I shall confine myself to endorsing wholeheartedly the views expressed therein.

Still at the regional level, within the broader framework of the Council of Europe, Portugal shares in the achievements of the Council's Pompidou Group, whose work is an important contribution to realizing measures adopted by the various countries in Europe.

In strictly domestic terms, in 1990 Portugal updated its National Drug Programme in keeping with the Global Programme of Action, and this updating dealt with legislation and control structures, including direct action.

In the legislative realm, after the ratification of the 1988 Convention, we adopted national legislation making it a crime to launder the proceeds from illicit trafficking, instituting precursor control and providing machinery for judicial cooperation.

With regard to the structures, modifications are reflected in the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Commission presided over by the Prime Minister and designed to make control much more effective.

As to direct action, we have strengthened the action models of the public services entrusted with reducing demand - health and education - and with the control of supply - police and customs - and we have enhanced the participation of community non-governmental organizations, whose work in the prevention of drug use and the treatment of addicts is now receiving increased State aid.

In such a strategy, preventing drug use among young people, which is a priority area of action, has been addressed through systematic activity focused on schools

within the educational system, with the participation of students, teachers, parents and the surrounding community.

The results have been particularly encouraging in that first-time drug use among young people within the school system has seen no increase and remains at what can be considered to be low levels - below 10 per cent for first-time use.

In the area of treatment, all efforts have been concentrated on expanding the network of assistance centres to respond to current demand. The low rate of success of available therapeutic models, the growing number of addicts seeking help and the increase of HIV carriers are causes for concern and require that greater investment in this area, immediately and in the short term, be made within the framework of the National Health System.

As to the question of the control and suppression of illicit trafficking, pressure is constantly rising owing to increased use of sea routes by traffickers - it must not be forgotten that Portugal is a port of entry into the European Community - and efforts have focused on strengthening the police and customs systems and increasing regional and international cooperation. So long as the current imbalanced conditions remain, ever-increasing means and the allocation of new though necessarily limited resources will be the only options available to us.

If the international community is to succeed in controlling the production, distribution and use of drugs by the end of this decade, it will be essential for Member States and the United Nations to redouble their efforts effectively to implement the Global Programme of Action. As for Portugal, it will pursue its efforts to implement the Programme's measures and will intensify them in the areas where intervention has proven less effective - particularly in the area of the rehabilitation and social reintegration of addicts in general and prisoners in particular, and in the realm of the prevention and suppression of illicit trafficking. It will continue its participation at the regional level in the European Community and within the Council of Europe - in the Pompidou Group - stepping up international cooperation so as best to achieve the desired goals.

For us, it is essential that the United Nations pursue its role as a mobilizer of public opinion in general and among Member States in particular by encouraging and supporting practical implementation of the Programme's measures. It is also vital that the Programme of Action be more actively pursued within the United Nations system and that it benefit from a more clear-cut contribution from the relevant organizations, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization in implementing the measures contained therein. Lastly, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme must continue to guide the work of the United Nations in this area at the operational level with the dynamism it has always shown, and it must receive the resources necessary to carry out its work.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Lee P. Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States of America.

Mr. BROWN (United States of America): It is my pleasure, on behalf of the United States, to address this Assembly on the subject of narcotics.

We have arrived here today from many corners of the globe. We come from many different nations and cultures. And yet we face a common threat: the international drug trade and the international criminal organizations involved in drug production and trafficking around the world. The threat endangers our countries, our communities, ourselves and our children, generating in its wake crime, violence, corruption, environmental degradation, social decay and immense personal misery.

Today, I would like to tell the Assembly about the nature of the drug situation we now face in the United States. On the positive side, the number of Americans who use drugs occasionally has declined markedly. In 1979, 24 million individuals had used some illicit drug at least once in the previous 30 days; last year, however, only 11.4 million did so. And the number of Americans who used cocaine on a current basis dropped from 5.8 million in 1985 to 1.3 million in 1992 - a remarkable decline of nearly 80 per cent over a seven-year period.

But other data give us cause for real concern. Drug use by hard-core users has remained essentially unchanged for the past seven years, resistant to all efforts to reduce the number of users. In fact, the use of cocaine seems to be constant or increasing. Our country's chronic users also appear to be getting sicker. New data show a 10 per cent nationwide increase in drug-related hospital visits between 1991 and 1992. There was an 18 per cent increase in hospital visits due to cocaine; heroin-related episodes showed an even more dramatic increase of 34 per cent.

The new data indicate to us that the drug epidemic that began in the late 1970s is becoming increasingly concentrated among the nation's heaviest users. Clearly,

we have a long way to go before we can claim success in our fight against drug use.

Last week, we released our response to the drug threat: the Interim National Drug Control Strategy. This Strategy has been designed to give new direction to and reinvigorate our national efforts to combat the drug problem. The Interim Strategy differs from past strategies in a number of important ways. It seeks to deter new, high levels of first-time drug use by aiming prevention programmes at high-risk populations. It targets hard-core drug users for treatment to reduce their drug use and its consequences. It emphasizes the importance of community drug- and violence-control activities. It promotes the certainty of swift, appropriate punishment for drug offenders. It supports research, and programmes that research proves to be effective.

The Strategy maintains a commitment to certain basic precepts. One is that we must continue to fight drugs comprehensively with programmes that attack both the supply of drugs to and within the United States as well as those that address our domestic drug demand. Our support for the efforts of countries that demonstrate the political will to end drug production and trafficking will continue. Another is that the possession and use of illicit drugs will remain acts subject to appropriate punishment by criminal law. The legalization or decriminalization of the use of drugs would entail more users and even more severe consequences. That is unacceptable.

In the end, our national goal remains the reduction of the overall demand for drugs in America. Our Interim Strategy will proceed along four basic tracks.

First, it concentrates on demand reduction. Its centre-piece is an aggressive drug treatment strategy with hard-core drug use as its primary target.

Secondly, it focuses on the reduction of drug-related violence and the control and prevention of crime. We will pursue a comprehensive approach to criminal violence and seek innovative solutions that can be shown to be effective, including in particular those that involve our communities.

Thirdly, it supports the empowerment of our communities. We believe it is fundamentally important to have communities resist drug trafficking and use.

Fourthly, it calls for the United States to continue international leadership in and support for international drug-control actions. We believe that the international drug trade is a direct threat to the United States, undercutting our domestic efforts to reduce drug supply and demand.

To respond to the drug threat, we will build and strengthen the enforcement and judicial institutions needed to defeat it. With regard to interdiction, the United States will focus more on efforts in the source countries, rather than on tracking and seizing drugs in transit.

Finally, we will emphasize the need to attack the drug-trafficking organizations themselves.

In short, we will use every available means to reduce drug supply and demand within the United States, and to build strong, cooperative relationships with other countries that demonstrate the will to fight drugs. A strong multilateral approach is needed if we are to get the job done.

The narcotics cartels do more than simply buy and sell drugs. They can buy and sell and terrorize Governments too. They are sophisticated, highly adaptive, multinational organizations. We must attack the narcotics cartels from strong regional and multilateral defences.

And, given the fiscal constraints that all nations face, it is imperative that we coordinate our efforts and our resources, and make the most of what we have.

Mr. Bull (Liberia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

We recognize that much has been done already, and that the foundation is in place from which to build further cooperation. The United Nations, principally through the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), but increasingly through other agencies, is a vital partner in combating the global threat. Under its Executive Director's leadership, UNDCP has become the linchpin of international drug-control efforts.

We have a responsibility to sustain the high-level international commitment and resources for drug control on both national and international levels. My own Government believes in action, not just words; and therefore we are doubling our 1993 contribution to UNDCP: our 1993 contribution is $6.2 million.

There is an increasingly important need for a strong United Nations system. The United Nations agencies with related responsibilities cannot ignore the impact of narcotics production, trafficking and use. The United Nations is not just a peace-keeping or peacemaking body: it also is a forum for calling attention to the enemies of

democracy and calling for action against them. Let us make it an effective forum.

I ask several things of this series of meetings: first, that we leave here today resolved to condemn international drug trafficking, to seek full ratification of the 1988 Vienna Convention, and to go beyond that to help all nations enact the legislation and develop the institutions that will achieve the Convention's goals; secondly, that we intensify the attack on the trafficking organizations by targeting our efforts at the kingpins that head them; thirdly, that we urge increased emphasis on targeting the profits and the money-laundering operations of traffickers, developing and executing effective uniform maritime interdiction procedures, and enforcing chemical controls; fourthly, that we resolve to intensify our multilateral and regional approaches, to share our resources and to coordinate our assistance; and, finally, that all Governments resolve to support efforts further to strengthen the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. The scope of the drug problem is so vast that we must energize the entire United Nations system. We must also urge the international financial institutions to play a greater role in stopping the drug trade.

In this post-cold-war era, our countries are no longer haunted by the threat of nuclear destruction. And yet this is no time for complacency. With the end of the cold war, the security of nations is threatened by other insidious and powerful enemies of democracy and freedom. Narcotics trafficking and other global crimes corrupt and undermine the basic institutions that underpin democracy and promote political freedom: the rule of law and free and open economies.

The United States will not shrink from its leadership role in the attack against international drug and crime syndicates. We call upon the community of nations to stand up to this threat collectively.

With the international community's renewed and sustained commitment to the rule of law, we will prevail. Indeed, as this is an issue of simple responsibility - to ourselves and to our children - we have no other choice.

The PRESIDENT: I call next on His Excellency Mr. Shozo Azuma, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Mr. AZUMA (Japan): I wish first of all, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, to convey my heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Insanally, who is carrying out the important task of presiding over the General Assembly at this session, including these plenary meetings of the Assembly that have been convened to consider the question of narcotic drugs. I am confident that his wealth of experience and his keen insight will ensure that these will be very productive meetings. For its part, the Japanese delegation will be unstinting in its cooperation as Ambassador Insanally carries out his solemn responsibilities.

(spoke in Spanish)

Today narcotic drugs are found in all parts of the world and are therefore a worldwide problem, threatening the health and well-being of people everywhere. In recent years, the number of drug addicts has been rising rapidly in the producing countries, the transit countries, and the consuming countries alike. This gives rise to a very serious situation that puts down deep roots in the lives of people. The problems of narcotic drugs cannot be solved by one country, whether it be a producing, consuming or transit country; the problems are universal, and if an effective solution is to be found the participation of all countries in the quest for a solution is required. In order to build a new international community in this post-cold-war era that can enable us to strengthen the foundations of peace, we must give greater importance to promoting international cooperation to solve the drug problem.

In that connection, the Global Programme of Action adopted at the special session of the General Assembly held in 1990, devoted to the question of narcotic drugs, is important and significant, for it provides a common base for such an international effort. It is the duty of each State Member of the United Nations to do its best to implement the Programme.

Japan understands how important it is for Member States to strengthen balanced measures against narcotic drugs in the areas of law enforcement and reduction of supply and demand. For this reason, Japan has exerted every effort to make the adjustments in its legal system necessary to implement the Global Programme of Action.

In October 1991 the Government of Japan passed two laws to facilitate ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which was adopted in December 1988. In June 1992 Japan duly ratified the Convention. Since that time, with the help of its dedicated law enforcement authorities, Japan has proceeded steadily to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Further, this year as part of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, which is one of the proposals embodied in the Global Programme of Action, Japan launched an education and public information campaign called: "No, absolutely No!". Japan is also actively participating in the United Nations fund campaign against drugs in order to contribute to non-governmental organizations that have undertaken programmes in this area.

Although Japan has been relatively fortunate in the extent of its drug problem, in recent years the smuggling of cocaine into the country from Latin America is a cause of growing concern. If international trafficking in drugs is to be controlled more effectively, Japan recognizes that each country must not only pursue greater efforts to interdict such traffic at the point of entry but also contribute to international efforts to stem illegal drug activities in the producing and transit countries. From this perspective, I sincerely urge all Member States to promote the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and thereby strengthen international cooperation.

Japan considers that it is imperative to establish an effective international cooperation system through which the international community as a whole can combat this drug menace and, for its part, Japan is prepared to continue to contribute to this endeavour commensurate with its status in the world community.

To achieve the aims of the Global Programme of Action, Japan is also pursuing other measures.

First, it will share its experience and expertise in the area of drug control with other nations. As it believes that human resources development in the area of law enforcement is particularly important effectively to control illegal drug-related activities, Japan has invited people in this area from all regions of the world to participate in seminars in Japan on the handling of drug-related offences and will continue to do so in the future.

Secondly, Japan has recognized that it is necessary to strengthen the support it provides to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which, as the organization responsible for drug control activities within the United Nations system and the international community, has played such an important role in the war against drugs. Japan has strengthened its support for this Programme.

In this regard, considering the importance of taking effective action at the subregional level, Japan advocated the formation of a subregional centre for drug control at the Tokyo Meeting of Senior Officials on Drug Abuse Issues in Asia and the Pacific held in February 1991. As a result, the UNDCP Regional Centre duly commenced operation in Bangkok in March last year. This Centre has already contributed, for example, to the creation of a subregional strategy to coordinate anti-drug activities in the area known as the Golden Triangle and in China by helping to secure the signatures of the Governments of Thailand, Myanmar and China on bilateral agreements relating to the control of drugs. Japan will continue to support the UNDCP, including this Regional Centre.

Thirdly, Japan believes that economic and social development is indispensable to reduce the supply of drugs from the producing countries, and it has, accordingly, extended support for development programmes related to achieving a supply reduction in areas such as Asia and Latin America. Japan will continue to contribute to efforts to strengthen alternative development programmes in the producing countries so as to improve the economic and social environment and lessen their dependence on drug production.

I should now like to suggest several measures that Member States might take to turn the tide against illegal drug trafficking.

First, in concert with the non-governmental organizations, we must strengthen our efforts to reduce demand through education and public information activities against drug abuse. In recent years drug use has increased not only in the consuming countries but also in the producing and transit countries, and a strengthening of such education and public information activities is vital. Japan believes that government-related activities are not sufficient, and it considers collaboration with the private sector indispensable. In fact, the educational campaign called "No, absolutely No!", to which I referred earlier, was launched and sponsored by the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization. This campaign has proven to be very successful, thanks to the support of this non-governmental organization and the public. In like manner, Japan urges the Governments of all Member States to mobilize their resources and those of their non-governmental organizations to mount stronger and even more effective campaigns.

Secondly, a subregional approach, which I cited a moment ago, should be pursued, with UNDCP regional centres established around the globe. Our anti-drug struggle, particularly if it is to be fought within regions that also encompass producing and transit countries,

requires not only the individual efforts of each State but also the cooperation of neighbouring States with common borders. If we are to make progress in this area, each Member State must promote such subregional and regional cooperation, including the establishment of UNDCP regional centres, as we have done in South-East Asia.

Thirdly, I should like to emphasize the need for improved communication and closer consultation and cooperation between the Member States. At present, the only global policy-making forum on narcotic drugs in which Member States participate is the annual session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Japan therefore suggests that the role of this Commission as a policy-making body be strengthened through the establishment of an ad hoc group of narcotic-control experts to guide us with their valuable knowledge.

Fourthly, we need to build a stronger international base from which to prosecute our war against narcotic-drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The ratification and implementation of the 1988 United Nations Convention is not proceeding as it should. This is due, in large part, to defects in the regulatory systems of certain countries. Japan therefore urges all Member States that have not yet done so to make every effort to adopt and implement a national regulatory system and then to ratify the Convention so that better progress may be made towards achieving our common goal. I hope that we shall be able to make great and speedy progress in our endeavours to solve this problem.

These plenary meetings provide us with a unique opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to formulate real measures that we are willing to pursue together. My delegation hopes that we shall achieve this goal and, in so doing, reaffirm our determination to gain the upper hand in our struggle against three evils: the illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs.

The PRESIDENT: I now call Mr. Chandrashekara Murthy, Minister of State for Finance of the Government of India.

Mr. MURTHY (India): I am pleased to participate in these high-level plenary meetings of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly to examine the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances. The purpose of the meetings is to address comprehensively the global menace of drug abuse and its consequences. India has been a victim not only of traders, who have used it as a transit route for drugs from the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, but also of recent virulent forms of the drug menace, such as narco-terrorism. International cooperation in this area is imperative, as the problem is global and demands global solutions.

The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action is a comprehensive guide for action by Member States. My delegation endorses the recommendations therein - particularly those relating to licit production, the tackling of precursors, multilateral and regional arrangements and measures to deal with terrorist and insurgent groups.

India is a party to all the international Conventions on drug- abuse prevention. We are also a party to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1990 - a regional Convention on the subject, which came into force in 1993. We cannot overemphasize the need to check the drug menace, as it undermines the very foundations of organized society. While it may be easy to criticize those who fall victim to drug abuse, it is even more important to deal with the people and organizations that make it possible for drugs to be peddled across the globe to satisfy their base instincts and their lust for profit. It is significant that evidence of the close nexus between narcotics, gun-running and terrorism is surfacing. Unless there is a determined effort on the part of countries, irrespective of political ideologies and differences, this menace cannot be tackled effectively. I therefore give an assurance that India will spare no effort in extending to the international community full cooperation in all possible steps to enforce the United Nations Conventions.

The Government of India, in pursuance of the United Nations General Assembly's resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990 and the Global Programme of Action, has undertaken a series of measures to implement the relevant recommendations. In order to eradicate the illicit production of narcotic drugs, a country-wide action plan has been formulated, and appropriate instructions have been issued to all law-enforcement agencies under the Federal and state Governments. We are making vigorous efforts to identify and destroy drugs being illicitly cultivated.

In order to ensure total safety for the licit production of opium, a number of measures have been taken in the current year to prevent leakage. The Government has increased the average yield to be tendered by farmers. The cooperation of agriculture universities has been enlisted.

They are to conduct scientific experiments, in fields selected at random, for the purpose of estimating average yield with a view to determining the level up to which the Government should insist that farmers must tender. It has also been decided that the number of points for the transfer of opium after its collection should be reduced.

Modern methods of storage and transport are being employed for the purpose of eliminating leakage while opium is in the process of transit and transfer. Scientific instruments are being designed and developed so that the moisture content of opium may be determined, and its weight accurately measured, actually in the farmer's field. It is expected that these instruments will be commissioned during the ensuing crop season. We have also decided to strengthen the security measures that are taken during the extraction season in all opium-growing areas of the country, to prevent traffickers from exploiting innocent farmers. The Narcotics Control Bureau will be turned into a strike force to intercept drug traffickers within the country and those coming from outside. We are also cooperating closely with certain affected countries for the purpose of joint detection of the kingpins of drug trafficking.

The Government has also solicited the cooperation of industry to prevent the misuse of precursor chemicals. The Narcotics Control Bureau has advised every producer individually of the international responsibility to ensure that these precursor chemicals are sold only to authorized persons. Similarly, the assistance of the chambers of commerce and industry has been sought. They have been asked to give their members advice about ensuring the safety of chemicals and about their proper sale to authorized persons. My Government is taking steps to amend and make more stringent the laws governing confiscation and forfeiture of property of people involved with narcotic drugs. We hope that the series of preventive measures that have been taken recently by the Government and the close cooperation we are maintaining with affected countries will result in an effective check on the spread of the narcotics menace.

Recently, we have also been holding bilateral discussions with neighbouring countries, and I am happy to inform the Assembly that these meetings have produced an excellent response by way of close cooperation in this area. We have entered into bilateral agreements with several countries, and negotiations with 10 others, with a view to concluding such bilateral agreements, are in progress.

In the social sector, we have formulated a three-point strategy comprising awareness-building, community-based rehabilitation and the training of functionaries. A quick survey in 33 Indian cities has revealed easy availability, an increasing variety of drugs, increasing use of intravenous syringes and the spread of HIV linked to the use of infected needles. The number of registered addicts has risen at an alarming rate. While the regulatory and suppressive measures have shown increasing efficiency, more emphasis must be placed on the question of demand reduction.

We have mounted a continuous multi-media barrage, and considerable awareness of the evil effects of drug addiction has been generated. We recognized from the start that the success of drug-abuse prevention schemes depended on community-based rehabilitation and the association of voluntary organizations. We have 254 counselling, de-addiction and after-care centres, all run by non-governmental organizations. Under our programme of training professionals, 4,400 doctors, paramedics, social workers, police and prison officials have been given orientation in drug-abuse and prevention programmes.

We have increased the allocations for these programmes fourfold during the last two years. Substantially higher allocations will be required for tackling the problem adequately in the future. UNDCP's assistance has been useful, and there is a need to increase the assistance to cover the establishment of de-addiction and rehabilitation centres. I should like to pay a tribute to the efforts of UNDCP for recommending bold and pragmatic measures to fight the drug menace and for making recommendations for harmonizing national legislations in this regard.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's strong determination to combat, with the cooperation of the international community, this scourge of drug abuse and the menace of drug trafficking. We should also like to express our appreciation to those who have taken the initiative to negotiate a comprehensive draft resolution to be adopted at the conclusion of these high-level plenary meetings. I trust that the measures identified in the draft resolution will facilitate effective international cooperation in dealing with drug abuse and related problems.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Aad Kosto, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, of the Netherlands.

Mr. KOSTO (Netherlands): There is every reason for the problem of drugs to be high on the agenda of the

General Assembly of the United Nations. Drug trafficking and drug use are undermining internal order in numerous countries throughout the world, and international criminal organizations use methods which constitute a direct threat to liberty and the rule of law for the people of the States represented here. The Netherlands Government believes international cooperation is necessary to reduce both the supply of and the demand for drugs and to destroy the criminal networks which traffic in drugs. I should like to take this opportunity to outline a number of new initiatives taken by my Government in this area.

I should also like, on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands, to express my great respect for the major contribution to efforts to combat drug use and drug trafficking made in recent years by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), led by Mr. Giacomelli, its Executive Director. May I also pay tribute to the role played in this work by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the relevant policy-making body.

The Conventions concluded within the framework of the United Nations, together with the Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan, form a comprehensive framework for drug-control activities on the part of Member States and international organizations. It therefore gives me great pleasure to be able to state that the Netherlands recently acceded to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In other words, the Netherlands is now bound by all the relevant United Nations Conventions.

I would also draw attention to the introduction by the UNDCP of master plans which form the basis for the implementation of its projects and programmes. The essential element of such plans is a multidisciplinary approach, both to reducing trafficking and supply and demand and to social and development problems at the regional and subregional level. This has led to significant improvements in the way in which the drug problem is tackled in a wider context.

One example is the important role assigned by the Dublin Group to the UNDCP in the Task Force on coordination of drug control assistance to Eastern Europe, not only in coordinating activities in the various countries of Eastern Europe but also in formulating recommendations and priorities for the various regions.

The Netherlands is aware of the problems that drug abuse, illicit drug production and trafficking create for developing countries. In some countries the drug issue even threatens to impede normal and sustainable development. We recognize that the drug problem forms part of a complex set of forces that may include social, economic and even cultural elements. We also believe that isolated efforts that do not take all these elements into account are doomed to fail. The development of an integrated strategy is therefore needed to eliminate illicit drug production, as well as trafficking and demand.

The Netherlands has previously committed itself to UNDCP programmes in Pakistan, Colombia, Bolivia, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

Despite all these estimable initiatives, we in the international community must, of course, never lose our critical attitude. We must continue to seek ways of eliminating the weaknesses in the system. To this end, the Netherlands supports proposals, on the one hand, to request the Economic and Social Council to examine the status of international cooperation within the United Nations system in order to recommend ways and means of improving such cooperation and, on the other, to ask the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of the UNDCP and in collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board, to monitor and evaluate action at the national and international level to implement international drug-control instruments, with a view to identifying areas of satisfactory progress and areas of weakness and to recommend appropriate adjustments to drug-control activities wherever required.

The central aim here is the evaluation of the implementation of international conventions and the resolutions adopted in recent years. It is essential that the master plans drawn up by the UNDCP be included in this process so that it can be established whether the recommendations made in the plans are being carried out at the regional level.

We in the Netherlands, like those in other countries, are fully aware of the need for critical monitoring to determine whether the objectives of drug policy are being achieved in practice and whether parts of the policy require amendment. The Dutch Government established the principles of its drug-abuse policy in 1976. The reduction of demand for drugs is a basic goal of that policy. Over the years, we have constantly striven to integrate demand reduction into our education, health and social-services systems.

The facilities provided are nationwide and are available to all drug addicts. The various services

involved, such as the police, the judiciary and the social services, work together within our integrated-policy approach in a manner which I would venture to describe as excellent. Plans to expand the provision of treatment, particularly for problem addicts who cause trouble in our cities, are now being prepared. I need hardly point out the close connection between addiction and crime, given the fact that a large proportion of the prison population are drug addicts. The Government and Parliament of the Netherlands therefore believe that coercive policy within the judicial system should be tightened.

In addition, however, international drug traffickers have become more professional over the past few years, and the Netherlands is among the countries that have devised appropriate responses to professional crime. A large-scale reorganization of the police force has taken place in the interests of greater efficiency and improved cooperation between the various investigative services. One very important point I should like to mention is the recent enactment of legislation expanding the scope for investigating organized crime. The Acts of Parliament to which I refer cover the seizure of assets purchased with the proceeds of crime, the combating of money laundering, the interception of telecommunications and the protection of witnesses. They have increased our potential for striking at the heart of organized drug crime. It is not enough to arrest couriers and other minor figures: we must direct our efforts at the key figures of criminal organizations. The new approach by the Dutch police and judicial authorities has already led to a number of successes.

Investigations reveal trails leading to other countries, and that is why international cooperation in this area is vital. Scope for such cooperation should be increased by a number of recent conventions, chief among which - in addition to the 1988 Vienna Convention - is the 1990 Strasbourg Convention on laundering, tracing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. The Netherlands has not only ratified those Conventions but has also incorporated them into national legislation. It is now possible under Dutch law, therefore, to use financial means to tackle organized crime and to seize all illegally obtained advantage on behalf of the State. A number of ongoing investigations have yielded their first results and have led to major drugs hauls and the seizure of large sums of money and quantities of goods.

The Netherlands is lending its assistance to the drafting of similar legislation in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and has signed a treaty with the United States, which will enter into force throughout the Kingdom as a whole, aimed at improving cooperation between our countries, with provision for the sharing of assets. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom recently signed a bilateral treaty which builds upon the European conventions in this field. Cooperation in practical matters with our immediate neighbours in Belgium, Germany, France and Luxembourg is being stepped up to a significant degree.

However, the Netherlands has not only set its sights on combating the international drug trade. Our "coffee-shop policy", as it is called, derived from the belief that it would be the least of all evils if in-house dealers, who were tolerated and monitored, helped to ensure that users of small quantities of soft drugs never came into contact with such hard drugs as heroin and cocaine, which have much more serious effects on a person's health. However, this original objective has been obscured by the sharp increase in the number of such coffee shops. As more and more coffee shops have opened for business in certain cities, they have attracted more and more customers, mainly from abroad. This has to be stopped. Once the number of coffee shops has been reduced - and the Dutch judicial authorities are actively pursuing such a policy as I speak - the distortion of the original objectives will come to an end, and with it the drug tourism.

The Schengen Agreement affords excellent opportunities for us to join forces with neighbouring countries in Europe to combat drug tourism. Indeed, joint action is the key to all efforts to stop drug trafficking. Within the European Community, therefore, the Netherlands is a firm advocate of facilitating extradition procedures and the exchange of information. EUROPOL, which is to be responsible for pooling resources in Europe, is another indispensable element in efforts to tackle the international drug trade.

Nevertheless, we in Europe must not forget the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to the drug problem. The important thing is to reduce demand as well as supply. The establishment of the European Drug Monitoring Centre could lay the basis for this process by disseminating information on the treatment of drug addicts within Europe and hence improving their treatment.

I should therefore like to conclude by stressing once again that cooperation at the European Community level, together with the know-how possessed by the United Nations drug-control agencies in Vienna, is essential if we are to tackle the drug problem. My Government is always available for such cooperation.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon Mr. Kyung-Shik Joo, Vice-Minister of Health and Social Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. JOO (Republic of Korea): I have the honour to make a few remarks concerning international drug control, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

No one doubts that the unabating situation of drug abuse and illicit trafficking remains a major concern in today's world. Despite the whole framework for international cooperation and a wide range of efforts by the international community, an increasing number of people are still languishing under the yoke of drug abuse. Large quantities of chemicals have been illicitly diverted to the unlawful manufacture of drugs, and new forms of illicit drugs have been developed. Trafficking methods are becoming increasingly complicated and diverse.

While the end of East-West confrontation has provided a rare opportunity for prosperity, the accompanying political and economic upheavals in various parts of the world have also provided new opportunities for illicit traffickers, enabling them to penetrate regional boundaries more easily. Criminal drug organizations can effectively expand their areas of operation, entering into collusion with other international criminal groups such as illegal arms dealers and terrorists. This certainly poses a formidable threat to the security of the international community. The global situation of drug abuse remains grim. Drug-producing countries are still producers. Consumer countries remain consumers. There is a proliferation of the number of transit countries. Moreover, illegal drug-trafficking organizations have ruthlessly contaminated transit areas.

No single formula based on supply and demand can effectively cure this pernicious disease. It is also obvious that the threat of drug abuse and illicit trafficking cannot be effectively eliminated by the efforts of a single country. Illicit traffickers have demonstrated their ability to adapt to changing circumstances. In this regard, the firm will and determination of Governments to do the job properly and cooperation between Governments at the regional and international level are required.

Our frustration easily leads us to accept that widespread drug abuse is an incurable disease, with an unbelievable ability to transform itself constantly and immediately, making medicines or vaccines ineffective and useless against it. However, drug abuse is curable if we use the right medicines or vaccines. For this reason, we are compelled to review the strategies and policies that have been adopted to fight drug abuse.

The blueprint for drug abuse control was presented in the forms of the Global Programme of Action, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future activities in Drug Abuse Control and the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. They provide a very comprehensive framework for effective measures to control drug abuse.

The commitment of the international community to eliminate drug abuse has also been clearly demonstrated by the conclusion of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Many States have become party to the international drug control treaties, and even non-party States have endeavoured to implement the treaties' terms.

The principle of shared responsibility is now widely accepted by the international community, as the scope of international cooperation expands to include various aspects of the drug problem. In particular, approaches such as the introduction of a drug dimension into the lending and programming policy of international financial institutions and into the financing of alternative development activities rightly reflect the perception of the international community that the drug problem cannot be solved by narrowly focusing on its socio-pathological aspect and that we need a multidisciplinary approach duly taking into account social, cultural and economic factors in order to ensure a truly drug-free world.

What, then, have we missed? We may simply blame the multilateral systems for the worsening situation. Or we may use the excuse that international drug-control treaties have become too rigid to reflect rapidly changing realities. Still, we cannot escape the fact that the victims of drug abuse are our own people - our own neighbours and our own children.

We believe that international cooperation has been carried out very staunchly and systematically. What we need most at this juncture is to shake off our chronic sense of helplessness. We should once again muster our wisdom and revitalize our commitment. We should demonstrate our willingness to implement what we have agreed upon.

The situation in the Republic of Korea has greatly improved following intensified interventions to reverse the growing trend towards drug abuse. My country has made

great progress in eradicating the manufacture of methamphetamine through a continued crackdown on the manufacture of illicit drugs and through awareness campaigns.

In early 1989 methamphetamine produced in Korea accounted for 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the volume of methamphetamine smuggled into Japan. By the end of that year the percentage had plunged to 12 per cent, and no smuggling of methamphetamine from the Republic of Korea has since been detected. The Global Programme of Action has served as a model framework for my Government in waging the war against drug abuse. The Government of the Republic of Korea has adopted a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach. Policy tools have ranged from a forceful clamp-down on the manufacture, supply and trafficking of illicit drugs, through public-awareness campaigns to reduce the demand for illicit drugs, to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. As a result of these multisectoral efforts, the number of those perpetrating drug-related offences has substantially decreased.

My country, aware of the urgency of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against drug abuse, has actively joined the efforts of the international community aimed at combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. For instance, the Republic of Korea has collaborated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)in the latter's Goodwill Ambassadors initiative, which was formally launched as part of the activities of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, in 1992, with the appointment of the Chung Trio as the first anti-drug ambassadors.

In the Republic of Korea, the Goodwill Ambassador events received nationwide coverage by the media, thus successfully disseminating the information that drug abuse can threaten the future of mankind. In this context, my delegation wishes to recall General Assembly resolution 47/102, which called upon Governments to cooperate with UNDCP in expanding the Goodwill Ambassadors initiative to combat drug abuse.

The Republic of Korea, as a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, has stepped up its efforts to harmonize its national legislation with the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to make possible early adherence to the Convention.

In an effort to provisionally apply Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention, the Government of the Republic of Korea has prepared legislative measures to prevent 22 listed chemicals from being diverted into illicit drug manufacturing, by requiring drug manufacturers and traders to keep records of all transactions.

In addition, a draft statute concerning asset forfeiture and controlled delivery is being prepared. With respect to money laundering, the Government in August introduced new legislation that requires all financial transactions to be conducted in the transactor's real name. This legislation will make money laundering virtually impossible.

In connection with international cooperation to combat illicit trafficking of drugs, the Republic of Korea hosted the eighteenth meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Asia and the Pacific region, from 13 to 17 September this year, in Seoul. The discussions at the meeting were very lively, and the exchange of views and experiences among participants was extremely useful and informative.

We should not tolerate the current grim situation with respect to the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. If this worsening trend is not stopped now, the future of the human race will be in grave danger. I firmly believe that only a common response and a reaffirmed commitment to act at the national, regional and international levels can guarantee a drug-free world.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Christo Koulishev, Deputy Minister of Finance of Bulgaria.

Mr. KOULISHEV (Bulgaria) *(interpretation from Russian)*: The dramatic increase in illicit activities related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, threatening the well-being of the individual and of society as a whole, is becoming one of the most urgent international issues of global significance.

The magnitude of this rising trend requires a prompt and adequate response from the international community through the relevant United Nations bodies, which have already proved to be efficient in combating drugs.

The decision taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to dedicate two days of high-level plenary meetings to an urgent examination of the status of international cooperation against drugs re-emphasized the concern and responsibility of the United Nations in this regard. Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations

in providing policy guidance in the fight against drugs, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria considers its own participation in international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances a matter of priority for two reasons: firstly, the geographical position of Bulgaria at the natural crossroads between Europe and the Middle East and the current economic difficulties facing the country in its transition to a market economy, which heighten the risk of an increase in drug-related criminal activities within the country, worsening the situation not only inside but outside its borders; and secondly, our awareness that efficient and comprehensive drug control is beyond the power of a single State and that adequate coordination at the regional and international levels is necessary.

Fully aware of the negative impact of this social scourge, Bulgaria was among the first countries to sign and ratify the existing international legal instruments in the field of drugs. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances entered into force for Bulgaria in December 1992. This year, Bulgaria acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime. With the support of the Legal Affairs Division of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Bulgarian authorities have embarked upon the process of bringing national legislation into line with these Conventions.

Bulgaria attaches great importance to the improvement of the national capacity for facing drug-related problems, which it considers a prerequisite for successful international cooperation. In July 1993, the Government set up an Interministerial Committee as the administrative structure for coordinating the activities of all State bodies involved in drug prevention and control. The Committee will implement the national strategy and master plan in combating drugs.

In 1991, the Bulgarian Government created a special branch of the police service at the Ministry of the Interior for combating organized crime. The branch has operational links with INTERPOL and other national agencies. Technical assistance, including equipment and training, especially for law enforcement agencies, is considered to be of paramount importance for the building of national capacity and the strengthening of control on the borders and within the national territory. We hope that fruitful cooperation with the bilateral donors and UNDCP in this sphere will be further developed and will be of mutual benefit. We welcome the creation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and we hope it will contribute to the successful implementation of the Global Programme of action.

We highly appreciate the positive role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent organ for observing the application of the international Conventions on drugs. In June 1993, an expert mission from the Board visited Bulgaria and provided assistance in identifying and eliminating some deficiencies in our drug-combating policy and related operational activities. We hope that cooperation with the Board will continue because it is of mutual interest.

For the time being, transit trafficking remains Bulgaria's major drug-related problem. As further evidence of this, the main seizures of narcotics made by the Bulgarian Customs authorities have taken place at the borders of the country. Last year the authorities made 36 seizures of smuggled narcotics, for a total amount of 246 kilograms; 28 of those seizures were of heroin, amounting to a total of 159 kilograms. From 1 January to 21 October of this year, the Customs authorities have made 46 seizures of illicit narcotics, amounting to a total of 460 kilograms, among which were 40 seizures of heroine with a total amount of 457 kilograms.

According to the statistics of the Zollkriminalamt in Cologne, Germany, the Bulgarian Customs administration occupies first place in amounts of heroin seized along the Balkan route. Despite the fact that new diversionary branches of the Balkan route are being created, according to the available United Nations data, about 70 per cent of the illicit trafficking in heroin to the target countries, mainly in Western Europe, is being carried out through the classic Balkan route. Once again, this underscores the crucial importance of control of the Bulgarian southern border.

The war in former Yugoslavia and the embargo imposed on that country have forced most of the transportation vehicles to move in the direction of our northern border on the Danube river, where the first 13 seizures of smuggled narcotics have been made. Along with that development has come the initial process of establishing a domestic illicit market for psychotropic substances. Moreover, heroine is expected gradually to replace the traditionally used psychotropic substance on the market. The last two years have seen individual cases of illegal cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis.

During the first two quarters of this year, the specially established Central Office seized two illegal laboratories for the production of amphetamines, located deep within the country. Seizures have been made of 11 kilograms of amphetamines, 7 kilograms of phenitiline, 3.5 kilograms of phenobarbital, 3.1 kilograms of codeine, 154 litres of benzyl-methyl-ceton, 9 kilograms of heroin and 4 kilograms of opium.

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches particular importance to the international cooperation in the field of the control of narcotics and psychotropic substances. The participation of the Bulgarian Customs authorities in international efforts to stop the trafficking in narcotics began in 1969. The Police and Customs authorities have signed or will be signing bilateral agreements for cooperation with many European countries and the United States of America.

It is clear that illicit activities connected with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are directly linked with economic and social conditions in the counties affected by them. The economic liberalization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry which are part of economies in transition contribute to the development of negative trends in the field of control, including the precursor control. The continuing traffic results in the dissemination of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which in turn means the creation of national illicit markets and increases in illicit demand, trade and distribution. Drug abuse could become a significant medical and social problem which will adversely affect Bulgarian society. Taking into account the considerable drop in the gross domestic product during the past three years and the rise in unemployment resulting from the readjustment of the national economy, the losses sustained by Bulgaria from strict implementation of United Nations sanctions against former Yugoslavia and the heavy burden of the foreign debt, it is obvious that the State possesses limited funds and means for dealing with the situation with respect to drugs.

In this regard the understanding and assistance of the international community and most donors in helping us face up to specific economic problems in countries with economies in transition, especially those of them economically affected by the application of the United Nations sanctions against former Yugoslavia, should help them to tackle with the drug-related problems in a more appropriate way.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3208 (XXIX) of 11 October 1974, I now call on the Commissioner of the European Community, Mr. Padraig Flynn.

Mr. FLYNN (European Community): In his capacity as Chairman of the European Community's Council of Ministers, my distinguished friend Minister Wathelet has indicated to the Assembly how seriously the European Community and its Member States regard the drug problem. As the Member of the European Commission responsible for drugs policy, I have the honour and the privilege of describing to the Assembly the role and the activities of the European Community in fighting this plague in our societies.

Never before, in all of history, has there been such a seeping sense of helplessness, such a sense that any action can be subverted, any process eroded, any campaign vitiated by the forces of evil. The European Community is well aware of this, and more.

The European Community has long recognized the particular responsibilities of industrialized countries and regions in this fight. The Community has also been increasingly conscious of the extent to which the dynamics of European integration, the creation of a single market without internal frontiers and the decisive steps we are taking towards European union present us with new challenges. The initiatives taken at Community level indicate the seriousness with which the Community views the drug problem and the growing recognition within the Community of the need to take action at that level.

The Community also knows that the European ideal of peace and prosperity requires substantial, real and measurable progress to be made in this fight. The more important of the actions to that end in recent years include: the creation in 1989 of the European Committee to Combat Drugs (CELAD), bringing together National Drug Coordinators from each member State and the Commission; the subsequent adoption by the Council of Ministers of the European Community meeting in Rome in 1990 of the first European Plan to combat drugs, which provides a comprehensive framework for measures in the field of demand reduction, law enforcement and international cooperation and which was updated at the Edinburgh meeting of the Council of Ministers of the European Community last December; the ratification by the Community - the only regional economic organization to have done so - of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; the adoption at Community level of legislative measures governing trade in precursors both within the Community and with third countries; the adoption of a

Directive on money laundering and a Regulation providing for the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre for Drug Abuse as a result of Commission proposals; the organization of the first European Drug Prevention Week in 1992, involving the widespread participation of both governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the Community.

This is a world-wide problem. It is a threat that speaks all languages, a commerce that accepts all currency, a killer which makes no distinction of race, creed or nationality; and it can be fought only through cooperation, intensified coordination and international solidarity. Recognizing this, we have long believed that the United Nations provides a necessary focal point in the global fight against all aspects of illicit drugs. We reaffirm the importance we attach to the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in providing coordination and effective leadership for all United Nations drug-control activities, and we are glad to acknowledge its achievements. I am particularly pleased, therefore, to note that the excellent working relationships which exist between the Commission and the UNDCP were strengthened earlier this year by the conclusion of a liaison agreement. When the European Community talks about solidarity and cooperation, we do not mean it in an empty or a passive way.

Within the framework of the Group of 7, the Community and its member States have played an important part in the establishment and subsequent work of the Chemical Action Task Force. The Community also participates actively in the Financial Action Task Force.

The North-South cooperation programme of the European Community is directed to supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce demand largely through prevention measures. Community support has been provided to Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru through alternative development projects and trade preferences. The Commission has also recently submitted proposals for a major programme to support alternative development projects in areas of illicit cannabis cultivation in the Northern Provinces of Morocco. Close interregional links in precursor control are envisaged via an agreement currently being prepared between the European Community and the Association of South-East Asian Nations. Furthermore, in order to exploit fully the new provisions under the Lomé IV Convention to assist countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group in their fight against drugs, a general assessment is being undertaken to identify their concrete needs.

At the European level, a new East-West emphasis is progressively being added to our international drugs cooperation. Operational programmes are already being implemented in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and these programmes will shortly be extended to other countries in the region. More generally, the Commission will continue to put emphasis on drugs cooperation in the Community's external relations by continuing to identify it as a priority in its cooperation agreements with third countries.

I have spoken about some of the initiatives which are being taken by the European Community. We are at a crucial point in the rapidly developing history of Europe. Only a few days now separate us from the important date of 1 November, when the Treaty on European Union will enter into force, marking a new stage in the process of European integration. The Treaty identifies drugs as a priority issue and creates important new opportunities for action. The problem of drug dependence is singled out in the new provision which the Treaty makes for cooperation in the area of public health, and this will allow the Community to consolidate and build on its work on drug prevention. Combating drug addiction and unlawful drug trafficking have also been identified as priority issues for cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs. Likewise, drugs have been identified by the European Heads of State and Government as a priority of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union.

The range of possibilities which the Treaty now offers for action will represent important new weapons for the Community in the fight against the scourge of drugs in the coming years. The Commission intends to ensure that this new legal basis for action at Community level should be exploited to the full in order to promote the highest possible level of coordination and cooperation within the Community and to enable the Community to address the global drug phenomenon in a comprehensive way. More must be done, and more will be done.

As a first step in that process, the Commission is organizing a European scientific and technical seminar on strategies and policies to combat drugs, which will be held in early December this year. That seminar is intended to provide an opportunity for a discussion of the broader policy issues involved and an exchange of views on how the Community response can be improved in the context of the new possibilities provided by the Treaty on European Union. I envisage that the findings of the seminar will provide a good basis on which to draw up an up-to-date, comprehensive and balanced European strategy covering

demand, supply and trafficking - an objective to which I am personally entirely committed.

That is where the United Nations plays such a vital role, because this strategy will work only if it is integrated into a wider coordinated global strategy. That is where the United Nations has its great role, and I have been very glad of the opportunity to participate in the proceedings of these high-level plenary meetings, which are making such an important contribution to furthering world-wide cooperation in the fight against drugs.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.